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January 9, 1989

HIGHER INCIDENCE OF WILDLIFE RABIES
PREDICTED FOR YORK REGION
AND METRO TORONTO

Residents of Metro Toronto and York Region are being asked to take precautions against a possible increase in wildlife rabies cases in the area over the next year, Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio said today.

"We want to inform people and make sure they take appropriate precautions to protect themselves and help prevent the spread of rabies," Mr. Kerrio said. "People are asked to have their pets vaccinated and avoid contact with wild animals displaying unusual behavior."

Records accumulated since 1958 show that rabies outbreaks in the southcentral part of the province, including York Region and Metro Toronto, peak every three to five years, with 1988-89 predicted as a peak year. As of October, there were 48 diagnosed cases of rabid foxes in York Region and Metro Toronto. In 1987, the total for the same area was 29.

Generally, skunk outbreaks follow fox outbreaks, and because there are more skunks than foxes in urban areas, the likelihood of contact between rabid skunks and pets may be higher in the Metro and York Region areas over the next several months.

more...

Southern Ontario consistently records the highest number of rabies cases in North America, and accounts for 85 per cent of diagnosed cases in Canada.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Health and Agriculture Canada, has been active in developing wildlife rabies vaccines, and has had encouraging results from experimental rabies control programs in both urban and rural areas of southern Ontario.

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EDITORS: Please note a detailed fact sheet on rabies and MNR's program for controlling rabies is attached.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dr. Charles MacInnes
Wildlife Research Section
MAPLE (416) 832-7110

Charles Ross
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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March 1, 1989

NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER
ANNOUNCES COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY REVIEW

Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio today appointed a committee to make final recommendations on outstanding issues in Ontario's review of its conservation authorities program.

The committee, comprised of representatives from the province, municipalities and conservation authorities, will start its work immediately and is expected to complete its discussions by June 30, 1989.

"I believe this committee can achieve a consensus on the outstanding issues in our review of Ontario's conservation authorities program. I have received more than 200 responses to the review and its recommendations, and on the whole these responses have been positive," Mr. Kerrio said.

"To date, the conservation authorities have done an outstanding job in achieving their mandate, and the review process ultimately will enable them to increase their effectiveness, efficiency and accountability."

Bill Ballinger, MPP for Durham-York and Parliamentary Assistant to Mr. Kerrio, will chair the committee.

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Other committee members include Russ Powell, executive director of the Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario; Robert Foulds, administrator and clerk for the County of Kent, who will represent the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and Ron Vrancart, executive director of MNR's Lands and Waters Group.

The committee will address the mandate of conservation authorities over water taking permits, water sampling, forest management, drainage, soil erosion and sediment control, wetlands, parks responsibilities and conservation education.

In addition, it will develop recommendations for the amalgamation of conservation authorities, the reduction of membership of conservation authorities boards, and grant rates and funding.

Ontario released the review of the conservation authorities program for public comment last June. The review recommends changes in the structure, mandate and financing of Ontario's 38 conservation authorities.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phyllis Miller
Conservation Authorities
and Water Management Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-6285

Charles Ross
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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March 13, 1989

DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
SUCCESSFUL TO BOTH
DEER AND HUNTERS

Ontario's deer management program is a great success -- not only to the increasing deer populations but to the province's deer hunters as well.

A recent survey indicates that the majority of deer hunters in the province are happy with the ministry's selective deer harvest program. The program was introduced in 1980 to increase Ontario's deer herd. Since then, the deer population has more than doubled to more than 250,000 animals.

"The results of my ministry's annual deer hunter survey show that three out of four hunters approve of the way MNR manages Ontario's deer population," Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio said. "My ministry will continue refining its deer management program to reflect changing needs and conditions."

Deer populations continued to rise over the past year, particularly in northern Ontario, due to effective management programs and milder winters.

"This will allow my ministry to open some new seasons in the northwestern and northeastern regions of the province," Mr. Kerrio said.

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deer - 2

For 1989, new muzzle-loading gun seasons have been added in Wildlife Management Units 6, 7B, 9A and 9B in northwestern Ontario, and new bow seasons have been added in Units 42 and 45 in northeastern Ontario.

Hunters are advised that deer licences, which are required to hunt antlered deer, will be available in early June. To hunt antlerless deer, a correctly completed antlerless deer tag application, available with the licence, must be returned to a ministry district office or to the address on the application no later than 5 p.m., July 31, 1989.

Applications to hunt in controlled areas must be returned to the MNR district office that corresponds to the hunter's first choice of wildlife management unit by 5 p.m., August 31, 1989.

The 1989/90 Hunting Regulations Summary brochure, which will be available in late spring, outlines hunting seasons for all areas of the province. It is available from any MNR district office or from the Public Information Centre, Room 1640, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, M7A 1W3, or by calling (416) 965-4251.

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EDITORS: Please note that detailed descriptions of season dates and wildlife management units are attached.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Local MNR district office
or
Wildlife Information
TORONTO (416) 965-4251

1989 DEER SEASONS

RIFLES, SHOTGUNS, BOWS^a AND MUZZLE-LOADERS^b

Wildlife Management Unit(s)	Resident Open Season	Non-Resident Open Season	Conditions (Restrictions only)
6, 7B, 9A, 9B, 11A	Oct. 7 to Dec. 15	Oct. 7 to Nov. 15	Non-Resident Guide Requirement; in part of 7B and all of 9B, 11A
6, 7B, 9A, 9B	Sept. 30 to Oct. 6	Sept. 30 to Oct. 6	Non-Resident Guide Requirement; in part of 7B and all of 9B, bows and muzzle-loading guns only; no dogs.
7A	Oct. 7 to Dec. 15	Oct. 7 to Nov. 15	Bows and muzzle-loading guns only.
8	Nov. 11 to Dec. 15	No Season	No dogs.
10	Oct. 28 to Dec. 15	Oct. 28 to Nov. 15	Non-Resident Guide Requirement; no dogs.
11A	Sept. 23 to Oct. 6	Sept. 23 to Oct. 6	Non-Resident Guide Requirement; bows and muzzle-loading guns only; no dogs.
11B, 12A, 12B, 13, 14, 21A	Oct. 7 to Dec. 15	No Season	
36, 37, 38, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53A, 54, 55A, 55B, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60A, 61, 62, 63	Nov. 6 to Nov. 18	Nov. 6 to Nov. 18	
39, 41, 42	Nov. 6 to Nov. 18	No Season	
43A, 43B	Nov. 20 to Nov. 24	Nov. 20 to Nov. 24	Landowner's Permission; no dogs.
44	Nov. 6 to Nov. 18	No Season	No dogs.
45	Nov. 6 to Nov. 10	Nov. 6 to Nov. 10	No dogs.
64, 66A, 67, 68, 74	Nov. 6 to Nov. 11	Nov. 6 to Nov. 11	
65	Nov. 6 to Nov. 11	Nov. 6 to Nov. 11	Bows, shotguns, muzzle-loading guns only; no dogs.
69B	Nov. 6 to Nov. 11	Nov. 6 to Nov. 11	Bows, shotguns, muzzle-loading guns only.
71	Nov. 6 to Nov. 11	No Season	Shotguns only; no dogs.
72A, 73, 75	Nov. 6 to Nov. 9	No Season	Shotguns and muzzle-loading guns only; no dogs.
82, 84	Nov. 6 to Nov. 10	Nov. 6 to Nov. 10	No dogs.
83A	Nov. 6 to Nov. 11	Nov. 6 to Nov. 11	No dogs.
83A	Dec. 4 to Dec. 7	Dec. 4 to Dec. 7	Muzzle-loading guns only; no dogs.

CONTROLLED HUNTS^c - NO DOGS

Wildlife Management Unit(s)	Resident Open Season	Non-Resident Open Season	Conditions (Restrictions only)
53B, 76B, 76C, 76D, 77, 78A, 78B, 79A, 79C, 79D, 80, 81, 85, 87B, 87C, 87D	Nov. 6 to Nov. 9	No Season	Shotguns and muzzle-loading guns only.
76A	Nov. 6 to Nov. 9	No Season	Rifles, shotguns muzzle-loading guns only.
89A, 89B, 90A, 90B, 91A, 91B	Nov. 6 to Nov. 9 Dec. 4 to Dec. 7	No Season	Shotguns and muzzle-loading guns only.
92A, 92B, 92C, 92D	Nov. 6 to Nov. 9 Dec. 4 to Dec. 7	No Season	Muzzle-loading guns only.
93A, 93B	Dec. 4 to Dec. 7	No Season	Shotguns and muzzle-loading guns only.

1989 DEER SEASONS

BOWS ONLY^a - NO DOGS

Wildlife Management Unit(s)	Resident Open Season	Non-Resident Open Season	Conditions (Restrictions only)
6, 7B, 9A, 9B	Sept. 16 to Sept. 29	Sept. 16 to Sept. 29	Non-Residents Guide Requirement, part of 7B and all of 9B.
8	Oct. 1 to Nov. 10	No Season	
10	Oct. 1. to Oct. 27	Oct. 1 to Oct. 27	Non-Resident Guide Requirement.
14	Sept. 16 to Oct. 6	No Season	
37	Oct. 21 to Nov. 5	Oct. 21 to Nov. 5	
42	Oct. 7 to Nov. 3	Oct. 7 to Nov. 3	
43A, 43B	Oct. 7 to Nov. 12	Oct. 7 to Nov. 12	Landowner's Permission Requirement.
45	Oct. 28 to Nov. 3	Oct. 28 to Nov. 3	
48, 57, 60A	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5	
53A, 47	Nov. 20 to Dec. 2	Nov. 20 to Dec. 2	
55A, 55B	Nov. 19 to Dec. 20	Nov. 19 to Dec. 20	
58, 59, 63	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 19 to Nov. 30	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 19 to Nov. 30	
61, 62	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 19 to Dec. 15	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 19 to Dec. 15	
64	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 12 to Nov. 30	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 12 to Nov. 30	
66B	Nov. 6 to Nov. 12	Nov. 6 to Nov. 12	
65, 66A, 67	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 12 to Dec. 15	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 12 to Dec. 15	
68	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 12 to Dec. 31	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 12 to Dec. 31	
69A, 72B	Oct. 15 to Dec. 31	Oct. 15 to Dec. 31	
69B, 83A	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 12 to Dec. 15	No Season	
71, 74	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 12 to Dec. 31	No Season	
72A	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 10 to Dec. 31	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 10 to Dec. 31	
73, 75, 76, 77, 78A, 78B, 79A, 79C, 79D, 80, 81, 85, 87B, 87C, 87D	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 10 to Dec. 31	No Season	
78C, 78D, 78E, 79B, 86, 87A, 87E, 88, 94A	Oct. 15 to Dec. 31	No Season	
82, 84	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 11 to Dec. 15	No Season	
89, 90, 91, 92	Oct. 15 to Nov. 5 Nov. 10 to Dec. 3 Dec. 8 to Dec. 31	No Season	
93	Oct. 15 to Dec. 3 Dec. 8 to Dec. 31	No Season	

NOTES

a Bows include longbows, compound bows and crossbows

b Muzzle-loaders include flintlock or percussion cap muzzle-loading guns

c Licence must be validated. Deer Hunters should contact appropriate district office for further details.

for WMU(s)

Contact

53B Bracebridge District Office, Bracebridge

76, 77, 81 Huronia District Office, Midhurst

78 Maple District Office, Maple

79, 80, 87 Cambridge District Office, Cambridge

85 Wingham District Office, Wingham

for WMU(s)

Contact

89 Niagara District Office, Niagara

90 Simcoe District Office, Simcoe

91, 92 Aylmer District Office, Aylmer

93 Chatham District Office, Chatham



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Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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MNR IMPROVES
RESERVATION SERVICE
FOR PROVINCIAL PARKS



April 5, 1989

The Ministry of Natural Resources is improving its park reservation service.

"Reservations are the best way for visitors to provincial parks to ensure they have a campsite when they arrive. We all want the reservation service to be as fair as possible," Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio said.

All campers making reservations must now guarantee payment in advance. A three dollar reservation fee to cover administrative costs will be charged along with regular camping fees.

"I hope this will provide an incentive to honor campsite reservations," Mr. Kerrio said.

The changes were made after campers expressed concerns that reserved campsites were not being fully used. In recent years, approximately 10 per cent of reservations were not honored.

The reservation will hold a campsite until 8 a.m. the day following the scheduled arrival date. If the reservation is cancelled by noon on the planned arrival date, campers will receive a full refund, including the \$3 reservation fee. No-shows will be billed for one night's stay, plus the reservation fee.

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To reserve a spot, campers may telephone, write or visit the park where they are planning to camp. They should supply their name, address, telephone number, the number of people in their party, the arrival and departure dates and how they're planning to pay. Payment may be made by cash, money order, cheque, VISA or MasterCard. If paying by credit card, the number and expiry date are needed. Cheques must be received by the park 21 days before arrival to allow for bank processing.

Most parks will be open for camping by the Victoria Day long weekend, May 20 to 22. Information on park rates and operating dates is available in the 1989 Provincial Parks Guide, which may be obtained at any Ministry of Natural Resources office or Ontario Travel Centre.

Campers are reminded that a ban on alcohol will once again be in effect for the period leading up to and including Victoria Day weekend (May 12 to May 22) in many southern Ontario parks.

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EDITORS: Attached are a list of parks where alcohol is banned from May 12 to 22, 1989, and a list of provincial parks that provide the reservation service.

REMARQUE: Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bob McGee
Parks and Recreational Areas Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1245

Charles Ross
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS

A Ban on Alcohol will be in effect from
May 12 to May 22, 1989 at the following parks:

Central Ontario

Awenda
Balsam Lake
Bass Lake
Darlington
Earl Rowe
Emily
McRae Point
Rock Point
Serpent Mounds
Sibbald Point
Six Mile Lake

Eastern Ontario

Fitzroy
Presqu'ile
Rideau River
Sandbanks

Southwestern Ontario

Craigleith
Ippeewash
Long Point
MacGregor Point
Pinery
Point Farms
Port Burwell
Rondeau
Sauble Falls
Turkey Point
Wheatley



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April 12, 1989

CANADA AND U.S. TO SHARE COST OF
ACQUIRING AND DEVELOPING WETLAND
WATERFOWL HABITAT ON MATCHEDASH BAY

The Ministry of Natural Resources will co-ordinate an international effort to develop a multi-million dollar wetland waterfowl management project near Matchedash Bay.

Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio today announced that governments and conservation groups in Canada and the United States will share the cost of developing the Matchedash Bay Provincial Wildlife Area.

The project will enhance wetland waterfowl management efforts on Matchedash Bay, a marshy area located at the extreme southeast end of Georgian Bay near the Town of Coldwater in Simcoe County. The bay is an important breeding and staging area for migratory birds in southern Ontario.

"The loss of habitat is the most serious threat facing North America's waterfowl," Mr. Kerrio said. "This major project will protect approximately 2,000 hectares of wetland habitat and greatly benefit our black ducks, mallards, geese and other wildlife. It builds on the co-operative efforts of conservation groups and government agencies in Canada and the United States to protect and enhance North American waterfowl populations."

The project will acquire and develop about 1,700 hectares of land, at an estimated cost of \$8.2-million over seven years. The ministry will contribute approximately \$675,000. In addition, about 300 hectares of waterfowl habitat now managed by MNR will be incorporated into the project.

Other Canadian contributors include the Canadian Wildlife Service and non-government agencies such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

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The ministry will oversee acquisition of land on Matchedash Bay, through the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

"I am particularly pleased that the Nature Conservancy has agreed to participate as the land acquisition agent of this joint venture," Mr. Kerrio said.

The project is the first in Ontario under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, signed in May 1986 by Canada and the United States. The plan aims to protect more than 24,000 hectares of waterfowl habitat in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence lowlands of Canada. Its overall goal is to increase North America's breeding population of ducks to 62 million, and its fall flight of waterfowl to 100 million, by the year 2000.

By developing suitable habitat for breeding and staging, the Matchedash Bay project hopes to produce an additional 1,200 mallards, 300 black ducks and 1,900 geese and other waterfowl annually.

A process of public consultation will take place during the project's first 18 months to determine land use guidelines and assess the environmental impact of developing the area. A local citizens' advisory committee will be established to assist in the planning process.

Today's announcement coincides with National Wildlife Week, April 8 to 14.

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REMARQUE : Version francaise disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Alex Smith
Fish and Wildlife Supervisor
Huron District
MIDHURST (705) 728-2900

Charles Ross
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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April 21, 1989

MNR TO ISSUE 34,215 TAGS
TO HUNT BULL OR COW MOOSE
DURING 1989 HUNTING SEASON

The Ministry of Natural Resources has established a quota of 34,215 validation tags to hunt adult moose in Ontario this year under the Selective Harvest Program.

The computerized draw allocates opportunities to hunt bull or cow moose in 69 Wildlife Management Units with a moose hunting season.

"Moose hunters have responded positively to the lottery system, and their co-operation has helped make the Selective Harvest Program a success," Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio said. "Ontario's moose population has increased to over 120,000, from 80,000, since the Selective Harvest Program was introduced in 1983."

The program places an annual limit on the harvest of adult moose. The goal is to increase the moose population to 160,000 by the year 2000, double the 1983 total.

About four per cent fewer tags will be available this year compared with 1988. However, tag quotas are the same or have increased in 40 of the 69 Wildlife Management Units.

Reasons for a decrease vary from unit to unit. Often it is because there is a low moose population in the area or because previous hunter success rates were higher than anticipated.

Moose hunters are encouraged to apply in areas where they have a good chance of receiving a tag. During the draw, some Wildlife Management Units are consistently oversubscribed. Therefore the chances of receiving a tag in those units is minimal.

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Last year's unit-by-unit draw statistics, and the 1989 quotas for adult moose validation tags, are included in the 1989 Moose Hunter Fact Sheet available at licence issuers and MNR district offices.

There will be no changes this year in the methods used to allocate bull and cow tags in the draw. However, in response to an extensive review of moose hunter opportunities within the Selective Harvest Program, a system to allocate tags on a group basis is being developed for possible implementation in 1990.

"Last year, I was pleased to respond to a request by the majority of hunters that we allow party hunting for adult moose. This was done on the understanding that if harvest levels increased as a result, the number of tags issued the following year would be reduced accordingly," Mr. Kerrio said.

The minister added that moose hunter education efforts have been increased and a moose hunter's manual, videotapes, and expanded moose hunter workshops will be available this year.

To be eligible for the selective harvest draw, applications must be received at Wildlife Branch by 5 p.m. Monday, May 15, 1989. Hunters can drop off their applications at MNR's Public Information Centre, 99 Wellesley Street West in the Queen's Park area of Toronto, or at any MNR district office.

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EDITORS: A list of 1989 moose tag quotas is attached.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Howard Smith
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Charles Ross
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

W.M.U. MOOSE VALIDATION TAG QUOTAS — 1989

BULL AND COW TAGS AVAILABLE — 1989, REGULAR GUN

	W.M.U.	BULLS	COWS	TOTAL
	1C	2,025	675	2,700
N	2	120	45	165
O	3	440	160	600
R	4	325	130	455
T	5	485	250	735
H	6	110	55	165
W	7A	125	40	165
E	7B	240	170	410
S	8	310	160	470
T	9A	140	55	195
E	9B	54	21	75
R	15A	430	220	650
N	16A	115	40	155
	16B	70	30	100
	REGION			
	TOTAL	4,989	2,051	7,040
N	11A	110	50	160
O	11B	150	65	215
R	12A	285	90	375
T	12B	500	150	650
H	13	1,600	500	2,100
	14	200	70	270
	15B	1,270	465	1,735
C	16C	270	120	390
E	17	560	270	830
N	18A	195	45	240
T	18B	185	100	285
R	19	265	65	330
A	21A	1,585	290	1,875
L	21B	1,755	395	2,150
	REGION			
	TOTAL	8,930	2,675	11,605
	1A	20	20	40
	1D	5	5	10
	22	100	40	140
N	23	135	80	215
O	24	235	75	310
R	25	65	40	105
T	26	75	25	100
H	27	370	75	445
E	28	720	320	1,040
R	29	400	290	690
N	30	130	100	230
	31	200	180	380
	REGION			
	TOTAL	2,455	1,250	3,705

W.M.U. MOOSE VALIDATION TAG QUOTAS — 1989, continued...

BULL AND COW TAGS AVAILABLE — 1989

W.M.U.	BULLS	COWS	TOTAL
N 32	50	40	90
O 33	50	50	100
R 34	55	20	75
T 35	955	385	1,340
H 36	65	70	135
E 37	200	70	270
A 38	1,420	995	2,415
S 39	140	195	335
T 40	565	425	990
E 41	870	385	1,255
R 42	30	30	60
N 45	8	2	10
47	195	45	240
REGION TOTAL	4,603	2,712	7,315
A 46	25	20	45
L 48	465	85	550
G 49	70	35	105
O 50	385	65	450
N 53	50	15	65
Q 54	465	95	560
U 55A	80	15	95
I 55B	25	10	35
N 56	85	25	110
57	75	25	100
& 58	25	5	30
59	25	5	30
E 60	55	15	70
A 61	250	150	400
S 62	25	25	50
T 63	50	25	75
REGION TOTAL	2,155	615	2,770

W.M.U. ARCHERY VALIDATION TAG QUOTAS

BULL AND COW TAGS AVAILABLE — 1989

W.M.U.	BULLS	COWS	TOTAL
2	10	10	20
3	30	10	40
4	10	10	20
5	30	10	40
6	10	10	20
7B	20	10	30
8	30	10	40
9A	10	10	20
9B	10	10	20
12A	40	10	50
12B	40	10	50
13	120	100	220
14	30	10	40
15A	30	10	40
15B	50	20	70
18A	45	10	55
19	25	10	35
21A	75	20	95
21B	80	20	100
23	105	45	150
29	260	125	385
38	205	35	240
ARCHERY TOTAL	1,265	515	1,780
PROVINCIAL TOTAL	24,397	9,818	34,215



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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May 26, 1989

MINISTERS EXTEND DEADLINE
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
ON DRAFT WETLANDS PLANNING POLICY

The ministers of Natural Resources and Municipal Affairs have extended the public review period for the draft Wetlands Planning Policy statement.

"We've extended the deadline for comments to July 14, 1989 to give the public more opportunity to be a part of the review process," Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio said. "Thus far we've received comments from municipalities and a number of other groups, but we want to ensure that all interested groups and individuals have a full opportunity to participate."

The purpose of the draft Wetlands Planning Policy statement is to recognize the importance of Ontario's wetlands, and reflect the Ontario government's strong commitment to their protection.

Public review of the draft statement began with its release in October, 1988. Since then the two ministries have been consulting closely with the public and municipalities to ensure that this statement will be an effective tool in making sound land use planning decisions.

All comments received by July 14 will be reviewed by both the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

The statement provides the planning component of the province's overall management strategy that includes securing, protecting, evaluating and researching wetlands.

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Under the draft policy statement, all public agencies will be required to "have regard to" wetlands, in their land use planning decisions.

The final version of the draft Wetlands Planning Policy statement will be issued by MNR and MMA under section three of the provincial Planning Act.

At present, less than a quarter of the original wetlands in southern Ontario remain, due to urban encroachment, draining, filling and land clearing.

Swamps and bogs are often undervalued. Wetlands purify water, contribute to flood control, and provide crucial habitat for fish and wildlife species.

The draft Wetlands Planning Policy statement recognizes the ecological, recreational and economic values of provincially significant wetlands and the need to consider those values in planning documents.

The draft statement, which was prepared by a committee representing four ministries, replaces the Implementation Guidelines for Wetlands Management in Ontario that have been in place since 1984.

Copies of the draft Wetlands Planning Policy statement and the Implementation Guidelines for the statement are available at all MNR district offices or by writing to:

Wildlife Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
Whitney Block, Rm # 4620
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto M7A 1W3

Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Office of Local Planning Policy
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto M5G 2E5

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Doug Hagan
Wildlife Branch
Toronto (416) 965-4252

Charles Ross
Communications Services Branch
Toronto (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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- N25

July 14, 1989

30,547 MOOSE TAGS
ISSUED FOR THE 1989 HUNT
BY THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Ministry of Natural Resources has mailed 30,547 adult moose validation tags to hunters for the 1989 moose hunt.

The annual draw for moose validation tags, a random draw which allows limited numbers of adult moose to be hunted, was held June 28. All of the 88,737 applicants who put their names in the 1989 draw will be notified about the results by the end of July.

The draw is part of the ministry's moose selective harvest program which was initiated in 1983 to allow the moose population to rebuild. Successful hunters in the draw will be given validation tags which indicate they are licensed to hunt adult moose.

The draw covers 69 wildlife management units with moose seasons in Ontario, and ensures a fair allocation of moose hunting opportunities.

A total of 34,215 tags were available. The number of tags allocated in each of the management units is determined by the moose population in the area. However, the demand for tags was lower in some units (remote areas or areas where the hunting method is restricted to archery equipment). As a result, 3,668 tags have not been allocated.

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During the second and third weeks of August, hunters who applied but were not successful in other management units will be given a chance to obtain one of these tags.

The ministry will notify eligible hunters by mail of the management units where the remaining tags are available and how to apply for them.

Hunters who do not receive a tag in the initial draw may still book a hunt through tourist outfitters who may have tags available. The draw applies to adult moose and all purchasers of moose licences may hunt for calf moose.

When the selective harvest program began, there were fewer than 80,000 moose in Ontario. Now there are 120,000. The ministry's goal is to increase the population to 160,000 by the end of the century.

- 30 -

Remarque: Version française disponible

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Howard L. Smith
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

news release communiqué

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September 18, 1989

MNR STUDY FINDS TOXIC CONTAMINANTS IN SNAPPING TURTLE MEAT FROM FOUR GREAT LAKES AREAS

A study by the Ministry of Natural Resources has shown the presence of toxic contaminants in snapping turtle meat from some areas of southern and eastern Ontario.

"The ministry's Wildlife Branch is monitoring what the long-term effects of these contaminants will be for snapping turtle populations," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said. "But the contamination levels found suggest that people should use prudence with respect to the regular consumption of adult turtle meat from some areas."

The study was carried out in several Great Lakes locations by the Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources in conjunction with the Great Lakes Institute of the University of Windsor.

Because turtles live a long time and therefore might accumulate contaminants, the Wildlife Branch decided to examine turtles from areas near industrial sites.

"We are expanding the scope of the ministry's testing program to 16 areas in southern and northern Ontario, to determine whether snapping turtles in other locations have also been affected and to further assess the implications of this contamination, both in regard to turtle populations and the consumption of turtle meat," Mrs. McLeod said.

The pilot study, begun in the summer of 1988, involved testing of the dissected muscle and liver tissue of 13 adult snapping turtle carcasses obtained from four Great Lake areas, Cornwall Island in the St. Lawrence River, Walpole Island in the St. Clair River, the Welland River near Lake Erie and Martindale Pond in St. Catharines near Lake Ontario.

more...



This research found that the main site affected is on Cornwall Island in the St. Lawrence River, where the turtles tested had polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) levels of 344 parts per million in fat from muscle tissue. This translates to approximately 3.4 parts per million in whole muscle. PCB levels of between 0.06 and 0.45 parts per million in whole muscle tissue were found at the other sites.

The analyses also found that total PCB levels in liver tissue taken from the turtles were three times higher than that of muscle tissue. Low levels of agricultural pesticides DDE, dieldrin and chlordane were also found in muscle tissue at all of the sites.

The PCB levels observed in Cornwall Island turtles may be attributed to that area's proximity to industrial sources in New York State, where high levels of contaminants have been documented by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. The other areas studied are also near industrial sites.

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Remarque : Version francaise disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Valanne Glooshenko
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



CARON
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-N25

November 10, 1989

Maple District Fisheries Management Plan

A plan to direct the management of the fish resources in the Greater Toronto Area has recently been completed. Fisheries from the Credit River to Duffins Creek and Lake Simcoe to Lake Ontario are covered in the document.

The plan presents the information about the fish resource, current management practices, and the problems and issues facing fisheries in Maple District. Most importantly, the plan contains a detailed list of the strategies and tactics that have been adopted to achieve the ministry's objectives of protecting and rehabilitating fish populations and fish habitat, providing fishing opportunities, enhancing public access, and expanding fisheries education programs.

The planning process, which began in 1986, included preparation of a Background Information document, a Draft Plan, and a Final Plan. A series of public meetings was held in 1987 and another in 1988. Concerns expressed during these meetings plus comments received in questionnaires and letters have been incorporated into the final version of the plan.

Copies of the plan are available at a cost of \$5.00 from the Maple District Office, P.O. Box 7400, 10401 Dufferin Street, Maple, Ontario, L6A 1S9.

- 30 -

For More Information Please Contact:

Tim Rance
District Biologist
Ministry of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7400
10401 Dufferin Street
Maple, Ontario
L6A 1S9
Telephone: (416) 832-7203



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December 1989

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT REVIEWING ONTARIO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

More than \$9-million in revenue generated by sales of Ontario's resident sport fishing licence funded a total of 510 fisheries management projects throughout the province in 1988-89, according to the second annual report of the Ontario Fisheries Advisory Council, released today.

The report, which covers the fiscal year April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989, also includes several recommendations made by the council to the Minister of Natural Resources on the use of licence revenues and the ministry's overall fisheries management program. The Minister's responses to the recommendations are also printed in the report.

"I am pleased to accept this report, and would like to assure the council that I will follow up on the responses my predecessor made to its recommendations," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said. "I fully support the role of the council as an independent citizens' advisory body, and look forward to working closely with its members in the future."

"It is a major concern of the members of the council that the funds made available through the sale of resident licences be used to enhance and extend the fisheries program," council chairman Dr. E. J. Crossman said. "As a consequence, they have placed great stress on the need for the base budget of the Fisheries Branch to be maintained at a level that will continue to support what might be termed core programs. The council feels it is in this way reflecting the wishes of those people who purchase a licence."

The council was established in June 1987 to advise the Minister of Natural Resources on Ontario's fisheries management program.

The report notes that since being introduced in November 1986, the resident sport fishing licence has generated more than \$20-million in revenue. Total revenue was \$9.42-million for the 1987 licence and \$9.28-million for the 1988 licence. The report also shows a partial total of \$1.4-million for the 1989 licence. While licences are sold on a calendar basis, with advance sales beginning in November, the council reviews revenues and expenditures on a fiscal year basis.

Funds from the licence are spent on projects ranging from the inventory and assessment of fisheries to enforcement, habitat management, stocking and research.

"With funding from the licence sales, the ministry is better able to ensure that our fisheries remain a sustainable resource for the benefit of all Ontarians," Mrs. McLeod said.

Among the council's recommendations is the proposal that MNR undertake co-operative funding of projects with other agencies, as well as proposals on revamping the licence system and various methods of increasing fishing opportunities.

Single copies of the council's report are available at no charge from MNR district offices and from MNR's Public Information Centre in the Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3. Bulk orders will be charged \$2 per copy.

LE CONSEIL CONSULTATIF PUBLIE SON RAPPORT SUR LA GESTION DES PÊCHES EN ONTARIO

La vente des permis de pêche de résident de l'Ontario a rapporté plus de neuf millions de dollars en 1988-1989, ce qui a permis au ministère des Richesses naturelles de lancer 510 projets de gestion des pêches dans la province durant cet exercice. Ces données sont présentées dans le deuxième rapport annuel du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les pêches qui a été rendu public aujourd'hui.

Le rapport couvre l'exercice financier du 1^{er} avril 1988 au 31 mars 1989, et comprend également plusieurs recommandations faites par le Conseil au ministre des Richesses naturelles de l'époque concernant l'utilisation des recettes générées par la vente des permis et le programme global de gestion des pêches du ministère. Les réactions du ministre sont aussi publiées dans le rapport.

«Il me fait plaisir d'accepter ce rapport et je voudrais assurer le Conseil que je tiendrai compte des réactions de mon prédécesseur quant à ses recommandations. J'appuie le rôle du Conseil qui agit en tant qu'organisme consultatif indépendant pour les citoyens, et j'attends avec impatience la chance de travailler de concert avec ses membres dans l'avenir», a déclaré M^{me} Lyn McLeod, nouvelle ministre des Richesses naturelles.

«Les membres du Conseil tiennent à ce que les recettes générées par la vente des permis de pêche de résident soient utilisées pour améliorer et étendre le programme des pêches. Ils accordent donc une grande importance au fait que le budget de la Direction des pêches soit maintenu à un niveau qui permettra de garder les programmes dits de base. Le Conseil croit que cette façon d'agir reflète le mieux le sentiment des acheteurs de permis», a déclaré le Dr E.J. Crossman, président du Conseil.

Créé en juin 1987, le Conseil a pour rôle de conseiller la ministre des Richesses naturelles sur le programme de gestion des pêches de l'Ontario.

Le rapport indique que depuis leur introduction en novembre 1986, les permis de pêche sportive de résident ont générés des recettes de plus de 20 millions de dollars. Les recettes totales étaient de 9,42 millions de dollars pour la vente des permis de 1987 et 9,28 millions de dollars pour la vente des permis de 1988. Le rapport indique aussi un total partiel de 1,4 million de dollars pour la vente des permis de 1989.

Bien que les permis soient vendus durant l'année civile, avec une vente préalable commençant en novembre, le Conseil étudie les recettes et les dépenses en se basant sur l'exercice financier.

Les recettes générées par la vente des permis servent à financer des projets aussi variés que l'inventaire et l'évaluation des ressources de pêche, l'application des règlements de la pêche, la gestion de l'habitat aquatique, l'empoisonnement et la recherche.

«Ces recettes permettront au ministère de veiller à ce que nos pêches continuent d'être une ressource viable qui bénéficiera à tous les Ontariens», a déclaré M^{me} McLeod.

Le Conseil recommande entre autres que le MRN commence à financer sur une base coopérative des projets avec d'autres organismes, et qu'il élabore des propositions pour améliorer le système de permis et diverses méthodes pour augmenter les possibilités de pêche.

On peut se procurer gratuitement des exemplaires du rapport aux bureaux de district du MRN ou au Centre d'information du MRN situé dans l'édifice Whitney, 99, rue Wellesley ouest, Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3. Les commandes en nombre seront vendues 2 \$ l'exemplaire.



January 12, 1990

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES STUDYING RECOMMENDATIONS OF FIRE CREW SYSTEM REVIEW

A review of the Ontario fire crew system found that instituting a flexible system in 1989, with a core unit of three-member fire crews, has been effective, but there may also be a need for four-member crews in some areas.

In all, the review makes eight recommendations. In addition to the suggestion on crew configuration, the report recommends examining the optimum mix of fire resources for the province, looking into the feasibility of restoring funds removed in 1989, providing native awareness training in regular fire training programs, strengthening the role of the auxiliary firefighter, enhancing the basic training system, developing a better definition of the role of the fire crew leader and strengthening internal and external communications on changes to the fire system.

"The review has presented me with a range of recommendations for our forest fire-fighting efforts for the coming season," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said. "I have received the report and will be studying its findings and recommendations before making any decisions."

The review outlines several options on crew size. The ministry changed its fire crew system to a flexible system with a core unit of three-member crews from the fixed five-member configuration at the beginning of the last fire season. At the time, the Fire Crew Strategy Implementation Report 1989 identified the need for a review at the end of the season of the effectiveness and efficiency of crew restructuring.

"The change in the fire crew system was one step toward a more balanced fire suppression strategy," said Mrs. McLeod. "It reflected advancements in other areas such as waterbombing, decision support and fire intelligence."

The flexible crew system, with three-member crews as the core unit, was chosen in an effort to increase efficiency and to improve MNR's ability to react to fires quickly. In the process, the ministry increased the number of initial attack crews to 207 from 170, while the number of firefighters was reduced to 621 from 850.

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The review indicates that while there were some implementation problems, the change to smaller crews was effective in preventing a project fire. A project fire is one that requires a substantial commitment of fire crews and equipment. The unforeseen problems were related to fatigue, training, equipment and adaptation to the increased use of auxiliary firefighters in support of the regular crews.

Despite the fact that there was a high incidence of fire starts and fire conditions were extreme during much of the fire season, the Ontario fire control system proved effective in keeping losses of prime forest area to less than 10,000 hectares.

A related review is currently under way on health and safety aspects of firefighting. A task force of representatives from MNR and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union is expected to report by January 31, 1990 to the director of Aviation and Fire Management.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bob Thomas
Aviation and Fire Management Centre
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 942-1800

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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February 20, 1990

NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER NOMINATES GRAND RIVER AS CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod has nominated the Grand River in southwestern Ontario as a Canadian Heritage River.

"The Grand is the first river situated in a densely populated region of Canada to be nominated as a heritage river," Mrs. McLeod said. "Its human heritage values, such as its roles in native culture and industrial history, make it an excellent candidate."

The nomination for inclusion in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System is strongly supported by the Grand River Conservation Authority. The authority is responsible for the management of watershed resources and related conservation projects in the Grand River watershed.

"Historically, the Grand River has been an important focus as a travel route and for settlement," said Mac Coutts, General Manager of the Grand River Conservation Authority. "Today the river offers a wide range of recreational opportunities. We believe the Grand will be a valuable addition to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System."

Under the Heritage Rivers System, the nominating government must prepare a management plan to provide protection of the heritage features that formed the basis of the nomination.

The Grand River Conservation Authority is currently updating its resource management plan for the Grand River watershed. The plan will include a management plan for heritage features prepared by the Steering Committee of the Grand River Heritage Study on behalf of the province. Once this plan is completed and tabled with the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, the Grand will be designated as a Canadian Heritage River.

The Grand River rises near Dundalk, south of Georgian Bay, and flows almost 300 kilometres southeast, entering Lake Erie at Port Maitland. Four major urban centres -- Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Cambridge and Brantford -- as well as the Six Nations Indian Reserve and several smaller towns with strong historic ties to the Grand are located on the river and its tributaries.

Many of the historic industrial structures on the river, such as grist mills and factories, as well as old locks and canals, look as they did during their 19th century heyday.

The nomination also includes the four major tributaries of the Grand -- the Nith, Conestogo, Speed and Eramosa rivers.

The Grand River Conservation Authority and Environment Canada, through the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, funded a series of background studies in 1988 and 1989 documenting the natural, cultural and heritage resources of the Grand. Dr. Gordon Nelson of the Heritage Resources Centre - University of Waterloo directed these studies and the preparation of the nomination document.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a federal-provincial program designed to recognize and protect Canada's river heritage and to provide opportunities for the public to appreciate these rivers and enjoy the recreational activities they offer.

Sections of 18 rivers have now been included in the Canadian Heritage Rivers Program. In Ontario, the French and Mattawa rivers have been designated as heritage rivers, while the Bloodvein, the Missinaibi, the Boundary Waters Voyageur Waterway and now the Grand River have been nominated.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bryan Howard
Parks and Recreational Areas Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2745

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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CARON
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- N25

February 22, 1990

KIRKWOOD MANAGEMENT UNIT NAMED FOREST OF THE YEAR BY MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Kirkwood Crown Management Unit, 90 kilometres east of Sault Ste. Marie, is Ontario's Forest of the Year for 1990.

"Kirkwood is a model of progressive forest management in Ontario, combining environmental protection and economic development, but in a way that ensures the resource benefits will be there for future generations," said Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod.

The southern portion of the 1,100-square-kilometre unit was once a virtual desert. Stripped of its pine forest, cleared and repeatedly burned over by farmers, who thought this would enrich the topsoil, the sandy plain north of Thessalon was a wasteland by 1920.

Beginning in 1928, the province began acquiring the abandoned land, which included Kirkwood Township and portions of 16 other townships, and began planting mainly red and white pine. To date, more than 23 million trees of various species have been planted.

Today the hardwood and conifer forest provides shelter for moose, deer, bear, upland game birds and furbearers. Sandhill cranes, geese and other waterfowl use local fields and waterways as a major migratory stopover each year.

The Kirkwood unit offers all-season recreation for hikers, naturalists, hunters, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, snowmobilers and anglers, who can fish many stocked lakes in the unit. The community fish hatchery located in the unit annually produces 800,000 chinook salmon, walleye and rainbow trout for planting in local waters.

The Kirkwood unit provides year-round and seasonal jobs for about 40 people in thinning and timber-harvesting operations that annually produce 50,000 cubic metres of wood. MNR and private tree nurseries, which produce 5.8 million seedlings annually for reforestation in the region, together employ up to 85 people during peak operations.

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Kirkwood has also become a research and education centre attracting foresters from as far away as China and Zimbabwe. Every fall, forestry students from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and the Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology in Sault Ste. Marie spend several weeks studying in the Kirkwood unit forest.

The Forest of the Year for 1990 is the second forestry honor for the area this year. In June, the naming of Sault Ste. Marie as the Forestry Capital of Canada will be marked by a week-long celebration.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Fox
District Office
BLIND RIVER (705) 356-2234

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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March 1, 1990

MINISTER PRAISES FIREFIGHTERS AT HAGERSVILLE

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today congratulated her ministry's forest firefighting team on their efforts to help extinguish the tire fire near Hagersville.

"This fire was put out as a result of teamwork, co-operation and the brave efforts of the fire team; I'm very proud that MNR firefighters were part of it," Mrs. McLeod said.

"The Hagersville fire was a completely new, unfamiliar and unique emergency. The fire crews had to contend with harsh smoke and severe weather conditions. Yet they succeeded in putting out this fire a lot sooner than anyone expected."

The MNR contingent included 40 firefighters -- 30 who joined a full-scale assault on the blaze just over a week ago, and 10 additional personnel brought in this week -- six pilots and engineers in three CL-215 waterbombers, and several communications and support staff.

On February 21, the MNR firefighters joined local volunteer fire crews, who had been battling the fire since it broke out on February 12. The local firefighters remained at the site to ensure a steady water supply for the suppression effort.

All of the MNR firefighters had previous experience in municipal firefighting, and all were trained in the use of special equipment and the handling of hazardous waste prior to their assignment to the fire.

"Our suppression strategy was to take this fire apart piece by piece, tire by tire, and completely douse it," said Fred Bruin, MNR's fire boss at the Hagersville site.

"More than 50 MNR firefighters immediately volunteered for duty at Hagersville, even though only 30 staff initially were required," Mrs. McLeod said. "I think that speaks volumes about the dedication and commitment of our firefighting people."

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tire fire - 2

A Joint Response Team, composed of representatives from the Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk, the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, the Ministry of the Solicitor-General, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Health and local health officials, co-ordinated efforts at the fire site. The MNR fire team was dispatched at the request of the Joint Response Team.

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REMARQUE : Version francaise disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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Ministry of Natural Resources
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March 22, 1990

SALE OF ANGLING LICENCES TO REMAIN IN ONTARIO NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER SAYS

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today announced an "Ontario first" policy for the sale of provincial sport fishing licences. In future, only Ontario outlets will be permitted to sell Ontario licences.

"Sport fishing licence sales generate both revenue and customer traffic that is important to Ontario businesses," said Mrs. McLeod. "We will be actively searching for outlets in Ontario to fill any service gaps."

Requests by outlets in other provinces and countries for licence-issuing privileges will be denied. Five out-of-province issuers now selling Ontario licences will be allowed to continue only until there is a change of ownership of the licence outlet.

In the fiscal year 1988-89, close to 4,100 businesses in Ontario sold more than 1.6 million resident and non-resident angling licences. Licences sold by out-of-province outlets totalled approximately 5,000.

Since no other provinces or states have reciprocal licence-issuing arrangements with Ontario, Ontario outlets are unable to issue non-resident licences of other jurisdictions.

Non-residents can buy a sport fishing licence on their arrival in Ontario, or purchase one through the mail by writing to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Public Information Centre, Room 1640, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M7A 1W3, or by telephoning 1-416-963-FISH.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Paul Comeau
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1033

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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March 26, 1990

ROUGE RIVER VALLEY AREA TO BECOME A PARK MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES ANNOUNCES

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today announced that the Rouge River Valley area of the Greater Toronto Area will be protected through the establishment of a 10,500-acre (4,250-hectare) park.

"This is the most ambitious urban park project in Canada's history," Mrs. McLeod said. "The area is a unique combination of outstanding features, including rare plant and animal species living in a variety of natural habitats, historic buildings, and archaeological sites. When it is completed, the Rouge park will be the biggest urban park in Canada."

The Ontario government is donating an additional 1,600 acres (650 hectares) of land beyond its earlier contributions for the park. If developed, the land would have an estimated value of \$1.1-billion. The federal government has offered to contribute \$10-million to the cost of the park.

The proposed park area includes a block of land that stretches from Steeles Avenue south to Lake Ontario, and from the west rim of the Rouge River valley to the Scarborough-Pickering boundary. A small portion of the park along the southeast border is in the Town of Pickering. The land south of Steeles Avenue is 13 times the size of Toronto's High Park. North of Steeles Avenue, the proposed park area includes the valleylands of the Rouge River and the Berczy, Bruce and Little Rouge creeks. These valleylands are in the Regional Municipality of York.

"We're preserving the Rouge Valley in perpetuity to ensure that the legacy left by those who came before us can be shared by the generations that follow us," Premier David Peterson said. "The step we are taking today will enrich the greatest asset we possess -- our quality of life."

Mrs. McLeod will immediately appoint an advisory committee to recommend a comprehensive management plan for the initial 4,300-acre (1,750-hectare) area of the park. Studies will continue on plans for the remaining park reserve area south of Steeles Avenue between the eastern edge of the Little Rouge Creek valley and the Scarborough-Pickering boundary.

North of Steeles Avenue, the ongoing acquisition of the Rouge River, Berczy Creek, Bruce Creek and Little Rouge Creek valleylands will be guided by the recently announced Rouge watershed management strategy of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Interim protection measures in the valleylands will be implemented through co-operative planning with the municipalities and the conservation authority.

Because of the area's diverse features and its urban setting, the specific type of park to be established has not been determined. The advisory committee will be asked to recommend which agency or combination of agencies should manage the park.

The Minister will invite the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, as well as private organizations including Save the Rouge Valley System, Inc., to appoint representatives to the committee. The committee will conduct extensive public consultations in developing the park management plan.

"I encourage groups with an interest in the Rouge area to become partners in the planning process through the advisory committee," Mrs. McLeod said.

Metropolitan Toronto has nominated 136 acres (52 hectares) in the park reserve area as one of its options for an interim landfill site. The proposed site would be subject to stringent environmental approvals and a mandatory public hearing. The site would be allowed only on the understanding that this land will ultimately be returned to open space use.

The Rouge area comprises a diverse combination of natural communities, including forests, uplands, beaches, streamside meadows, and marshes -- much of it undeveloped. Eighteen sites in the area south of Steeles Avenue have been designated as environmentally, naturally or scientifically significant, including habitat for rare plant and animal species, such as the shy bulrush and the red-shouldered hawk.

Several significant archaeological sites, such as the sites of native villages, and historic buildings, such as farmhouses built by early Mennonite farmers, also remain in the area.

The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority owns approximately 2,900 acres (1,200 hectares) of land in the proposed park area. Other landowners include Metropolitan Toronto, Ontario Hydro, and railway companies. Small portions of the proposed park area south of Steeles Avenue are privately owned. The advisory committee will be asked to recommend which of these lands may be acquired.

- 30 -

Editors: Please note fact sheet and map are attached.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bruce King
Central Region
AURORA (416) 841-9332

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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(11 12 90)
April 5, 1990

MINISTER APPOINTS PARKS COUNCIL TO SECOND PHASE OF MISSINAIBI PARK PLANNING PROCESS

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod has invited the Ontario Provincial Parks Council to join the park management planning team for Missinaibi Provincial Park north of Chapleau, one of Ontario's premier waterway class parks.

"I have asked the Parks Council to participate in the planning process in recognition of the significance of the Missinaibi within our provincial parks system," Mrs. McLeod said.

"The Council will hold public meetings and review public comments, questionnaires and briefs, then make recommendations on the proposed zoning scheme and policy options for the park."

The assignment of the Council, a citizens' advisory committee reporting to Mrs. McLeod, comes as MNR embarks on the second stage of the planning process for Missinaibi Park.

The ministry is releasing, for public review, a document containing proposed zoning and policy options for the waterway-class park. The document is written in questionnaire format to make it easier for the public to comment on its proposals and options.

"To date, a wide range of issues and concerns have been identified with the help of interested members of the public," said Lloyd Burrige, chairman of the Provincial Parks Council. "The public's help is again needed to find the most appropriate ways of dealing with these issues and concerns in preparing the park management plan."

The Parks Council will hold public meetings in five Ontario communities in May. The ministry will host information and display sessions prior to the Mattice, Kapuskasing, Chapleau and Toronto meetings, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The session prior to the Moosonee meeting will begin at noon.

The deadline for public comments is June 29, 1990. Results of the public involvement phase will be made available this fall. A preliminary park management plan is scheduled for completion in the spring of 1991, with an approved plan in place by June 1992.

more...

missinaibi park - 2

The public meeting schedule is as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
May 8	Moosonee	MNDM Building First Street	2:00 p.m.
May 9	Mattice	Sports Complex Third Street	7:30 p.m.
May 10	Kapuskasing	Canadian Legion 4 Government Road	7:30 p.m.
May 15	Chapleau	The Moose Hall 122 Lorne Street	7:30 p.m.
May 16	Toronto	Park Plaza Hotel 4 Avenue Road	7:30 p.m.

Located within the arctic watershed in northeastern Ontario, the Missinaibi waterway park contains one of the longest, unimpeded, protected rivers in North America. Running 500 kilometres from north to south, the park contains close to 100,000 hectares of land and water. The park's headwaters include the scenic Missinaibi Lake area, which is encompassed by the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve.

In 1985, the Missinaibi was nominated as a Canadian Heritage River in recognition of its unspoiled scenic beauty, varied natural heritage features, importance as an early fur-trading route, and its wilderness tourism potential.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the proposed zoning and policy options document from MNR district offices in Hearst, Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Chapleau and Moosonee, and at the MNR Public Information Centre, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dan Paleczny
Northern Region
COCHRANE (705) 272-7037

Lloyd Burridge
Provincial Parks Council
WINDSOR (519) 255-6731

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles



news release
communiqué

Gouvernement
Publication

April 5, 1990

PUBLIC ASKED TO COMMENT ON COMMERCIAL FISHING IN ONTARIO

The Ministry of Natural Resources is putting the current policy review of commercial fisheries management in Ontario into high gear by asking the public to send their comments to local ministry lake managers.

"This is the most comprehensive review of commercial fishing ever done in this province, so we would like as much input as possible from fish producers, anglers, environmental groups, local communities and others," said Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod, who appointed her parliamentary assistant Jack Riddell to conduct the policy review.

Mr. Riddell will hold meetings with provincial and local interest groups in communities across the province, in addition to collecting written submissions from the public. On April 4, advertisements placed in a number of newspapers bordering the Great Lakes provided detailed information on where to mail submissions.

Among the major issues to be discussed during the review are the method for allocating harvest levels among sport and commercial fishermen; imposing royalties on commercial catches; and dealing with the commercial harvest of non-targeted species.

"I look forward to compiling recommendations for the Minister based on what I see and hear over the next few months," Mr. Riddell said. "I'm confident that from these suggestions, we can develop a policy which ensures that our fisheries continue to support a healthy environment and provide benefits for commercial and other users."

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Doug Dodge
Fisheries Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7885

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

news release
communiqué

April 6, 1990

MNR TO ACT ON ALL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRE CREW SYSTEM AND FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY REVIEWS

The Ministry of Natural Resources is enhancing the flexibility of Ontario's fire-crew system for the 1990 fire season.

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today announced the ministry is acting on all 16 recommendations from two recent program reviews, including establishing a system that allows a flexible mix of three- and four-member crews.

"I applaud the efforts of both review groups for their very thorough work," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said. "Their suggested changes, when fully implemented, will improve training, strengthen communications, and enhance the safety of our fire management program."

Last year, MNR switched to a flexible three-member crew system from fixed five-member crews in an effort to increase efficiency and improve its ability to react to fires quickly. The move called for an enhanced, better trained auxiliary crew system to support the regular crews.

The fire-crew system review, undertaken by MNR fire management, identified the move to three-member crews as effective, but noted there may also be a need for four-member crews in some areas of the province.

The new approach will give MNR fire managers even more flexibility to deal with varied levels of fire conditions and behavior from one end of Ontario to the other.

"The review of our fire-crew system is part of the process of implementing an enhanced approach to fire suppression," Mrs. McLeod said. "From the beginning, MNR fire managers identified the need for a review at the end of the 1989 season to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of our crew restructuring."

The eight recommendations of the crew-system review deal with crew size, examining the optimum mix of fire resources for the province, looking into alternate funding arrangements, providing native awareness training for fire managers, strengthening the role of the auxiliary firefighter, enhancing the basic training system, developing a better definition of the role of the fire crew leader and strengthening internal and external communications on changes to the fire system.

more...

fire reviews - 2

The health and safety review, jointly undertaken by MNR fire management staff and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, addresses the safety concerns expressed by firefighters and ensures the health and safety of fire employees.

Six of the eight health and safety recommendations relate to safety aspects of training, while two concern information and communications to firefighters from management. Five of the recommendations will be implemented by April of this year. Three will be implemented by April 1991.

"I want to stress that the health and safety review was accomplished to the mutual satisfaction of the union and the ministry," Mrs. McLeod said. "The well-being of our firefighters is always of the utmost concern, and safety reviews are a regular component of MNR's fire system."

The Ontario fire season, as defined by the Forest Fires Prevention Act, runs from April 1 until October 31.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bob Thomas
Aviation and Fire Management Centre
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 942-1800

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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April 11, 1990

PRIVATE HYDRO GENERATORS TO PAY NEW CAPACITY CHARGE

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today introduced legislation to impose a capacity charge on private companies holding waterpower leases under the Public Lands Act.

"Ontario's water is one of our most valuable, yet undervalued, natural resources," Mrs. McLeod said. "This charge is intended to reflect the value of water as a source of hydroelectricity."

The new legislative amendment to Section 40 of the Public Lands Act will mean private companies holding waterpower leases under the act would pay a new annual charge based on the installed capacity of their generators. For 1990, the charge would be \$11.50 for every kilowatt the operators can produce. Subsequent increases would be tied to the Consumer Price Index.

The charge would be effective January 1, 1990, and is expected to generate \$4.6 million this year. It would be incorporated into all new waterpower lease agreements but, as an incentive to new operators, would affect only facilities that have been in operation for more than 10 years.

A total of 22 facilities, ranging in capacity from 800 kilowatts to more than 50 megawatts, would be affected by the new charge, which fulfils a commitment made by the provincial government in the 1989 budget.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Guirish Sardesai
Conservation Authorities and Water Management Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1271

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



April 20, 1990

MNR PROVIDES \$125,000 IN "GREENING" GRANTS BEFORE EARTH DAY

The Ministry of Natural Resources is providing grants totalling \$125,000 to two environmental organizations dedicated to planting trees.

"The timing of these grants -- at the peak of my ministry's tree planting season and just before Earth Day -- helps emphasize how valuable trees are to our environment," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said today.

The two organizations receiving the grants are Trees for Today and Tomorrow (TTT) and Friends of the Earth. Both are involved in tree planting campaigns on Sunday, April 22, which is Earth Day 1990.

"In another way, these grants are an expression of the Ontario government's support for how Earth Day is involving Ontarians in hundreds of conservation projects and increasing environmental awareness," Mrs. McLeod said.

Trees for Today and Tomorrow, based in Toronto, will receive grants of \$50,000 for 1989-90 and 1990-91 for its tree planting program, which focuses on reforestation streambank and headwater areas to provide wildlife habitat and prevent erosion.

Friends of the Earth, an environmental group associated with the international Global ReLeaf Fund, will receive \$25,000 to help plant trees in urban areas throughout Ontario.

MNR is also involved in public tree planting activities around Earth Day. In central and southwestern Ontario, three MNR nurseries are supplying more than 250,000 seedlings for planting by some 200 school groups, youth groups and other organizations. In the Regional Municipality of York north of Toronto, 200 volunteers will plant 80,000 seedlings under MNR supervision beginning Saturday, April 21, the day before Earth Day.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756





April 23, 1990

PROVINCE AND TEME-AUGAMA ANISHNABAI SIGN HISTORIC STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT

An historic agreement, the first of its kind in North America, was signed today by the Government of Ontario and the Teme-Augama Anishnabai (The Deep Water People). The agreement provides for joint stewardship of about 40,000 hectares in the Temagami forest.

Timber-cutting licences for the Temagami area were also issued today. No approvals have been granted for the areas to be included in the stewardship agreement -- the district townships of Delhi, Acadia, Shelburne and Canton. This area includes 3,800 hectares of old red and white pine.

"This step represents the kind of partnership that we are seeking with all those who have an interest in the resources of the area," said Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod. "The stewardship council that we are establishing for these four townships will allow us to work together to determine the best way to manage those lands."

The council will include equal numbers of representatives appointed by the Teme-Augama Anishnabai and the provincial government. Future decisions about management of those four townships will be made by the council. The Teme-Augama Anishnabai will also review timber management plans for other areas of the forest.

"This is the first time in 113 years that the Teme-Augama Anishnabai is signing a document that begins the process toward our vision of co-existence and certainty for the future life of n'Daki-Menan," said Chief Gary Potts. "We applaud the courage the Ontario government has shown in taking this first step," he added.

"The creation of the stewardship council shows that the province's commitment to native self-government, including the co-operative management of natural resources, is real and not theoretical," said Ian Scott, Minister Responsible for Native Affairs. "Our guidelines for aboriginal self-government are another example of our commitment to this process."

The four townships include 1,805 hectares of forest that were identified in the interim timber management plans for harvest.

more...

The approved licences account for 7,386 hectares identified for harvest and will provide a timber supply to nine mills.

"Recognizing that the agreement will have an impact on the operations of some mills in the area, the provincial government will meet with local businesses to address short-term and long-term wood supply needs," Mrs. McLeod said.

The Temagami/Timiskaming Coordinating Committee, a group consisting of representatives of several government ministries, will continue work to address current economic conditions in the Temagami area.

The Lake Temagami area, an hour's drive north of North Bay, is one of the province's most beautiful natural areas. The unique quality of the region's interconnecting lakes and rivers, mixed forests and rugged landforms have inspired a long tradition of wilderness appreciation.

The natural resources of Temagami have long supported tourism, industry and recreation. More than 3,000 people live and work in the Temagami area, and thousands more visit each year.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bart Feilders
Lands and Waters Group
Ministry of Natural Resources
TORONTO (416) 965-2900

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

Charles Ross
Ontario Native Affairs Directorate
TORONTO (416) 326-4766



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April 27, 1990

ONTARIO PROHIBITS COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF SNAPPING TURTLES

The Ministry of Natural Resources is prohibiting the commercial harvest and sale of snapping turtles and will regulate turtle harvests for personal consumption.

"The new regulations will help protect snapping turtle populations in Ontario, while still allowing individuals to take a limited number of the reptiles," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said. "But the ministry is also advising the public to be prudent when consuming turtle meat, because of studies which have demonstrated the presence of toxic contaminants in snapping turtles from certain areas of the province."

A pilot study conducted by MNR in 1988 and 1989 on the muscle, fat and liver tissue of turtles taken from industrial areas in southern and eastern Ontario showed substantial amounts of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and low levels of the agricultural pesticides DDE, dieldrin and chlordane.

The study has since been expanded to 16 sites across Ontario to further assess the effect of the contaminants on the turtles and on the consumption of their meat.

Until now, Ontario has not regulated the harvest and sale of snapping turtles. The new regulations under the Game and Fish Act are being implemented in response to public concern over unregulated harvesting and its long-term effect on snapping turtle populations. Prior to implementation of the new regulations commercially harvested turtles were sold primarily to markets in Ontario and the United States.

Under the new regulations, people wishing to take snapping turtles for personal use may do so under authorization of a resident or non-resident sport fishing licence. There is a catch limit of two turtles per day and a possession limit of five turtles.

more...

turtles - 2

Seasons have been established in some areas of the province to protect adult females during the period when they lay eggs. In northern Ontario, the season is open year-round. In most of southern Ontario, the season runs from July 15 to September 15.

Fishing licences are available at various local licence issuers, and at MNR's Public Information Centre, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Irene Bowman
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

news release
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April 30, 1990

NEW MNR GUIDELINE TO HELP CONTROL SPREAD OF ZEBRA MUSSELS

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today announced a new guideline aimed at preventing or slowing the spread of zebra mussels to inland waters from the Great Lakes.

"The ministry is asking bait fish operators, and others transporting live fish from the Great Lakes, to discard lake water and transfer bait in ways that will reduce the risk of transporting zebra mussel larvae," Mrs. McLeod said.

"The guideline addresses an immediate need for action on the zebra mussel problem, and we are asking people to comply voluntarily with the recommended measures stated in the guideline."

The guideline requests that anyone moving live fish from southern Lake Huron, the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario or the St. Lawrence River should be very careful and use water from a well or dug-out ponds, or water that has been chlorinated or treated with ultra-violet light.

People who should take extra caution not to transport zebra mussel include charter boat operators, anglers and recreational boaters who move their boats from lake to lake; boaters that have live wells on board; commercial fishing operators who transport their equipment from the Great Lakes to inland waters; and scuba divers who move their gear from lake to lake.

The zebra mussel in its larval stage is invisible to the human eye. It travels in untreated water to grow and reproduce in the new environment.

The mussel, a native species of Europe, was first identified in June 1988 in Lake St. Clair and had probably been discharged in ballast water by a ship from a European port. Since then, zebra mussels have been found as far away as Cornwall along the St. Lawrence River. Reported sightings in the Grand Bend area of Lake Huron have not as yet been confirmed.

The commercial fishing industry and a significant live bait fish industry in Ontario are affected by the existence of zebra mussels. Municipalities and utilities have increasingly become concerned because the mussels collect inside water intake pipes and disrupt the flow.

more...

guideline - 2

Studies conducted in Lake Erie by MNR have shown that the veliger or free-floating larval stage of the zebra mussel lasts from early May to October, depending on water temperatures. Research is currently being undertaken to discover the effects of zebra mussels on fish spawning, as well as effects on the aquatic food supply in Lake Erie.

Huron MPP Jack Riddell, parliamentary assistant to Mrs. McLeod, is heading a provincial committee to address the problem of zebra mussels. The committee will deal with a wide range of issues, from research on the species to identifying environmentally acceptable methods of control.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Doug Dodge
Fisheries Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7885

Bill Murch
Aylmer District
AYLMER (519) 773-9241

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

news release
communiqué



May 4, 1990

MNR LAUNCHES FOREST ECOSYSTEM CLASSIFICATION MANUALS

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today officially presented the Forest Ecosystem Classification (FEC) manuals for northwestern Ontario to members of the forest industry in Thunder Bay.

"These manuals are the result of seven years of hard work and will provide a common language for resource managers to describe and understand our forests," Mrs. McLeod said.

The project, proposed in 1982 as part of the Canada-Ontario Forest Resource Development Agreement (COFRDA) in MNR's North Central and Northwestern administrative regions, became a partnership involving MNR, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Forestry Canada, Environment Canada and the local forest industry.

Most of the program funding came from COFRDA, which provided \$1.7 million. Forestry Canada supplied an additional \$720,000 in salary support, and the forest industry provided \$210,000 in the form of goods and services.

The manuals consist of three books: The Field Guide to the Forest Ecosystem Classification for Northwestern Ontario, The Field Guide to the Common Forest Plants of Northwestern Ontario and The Northwestern Ontario Forest Ecosystem Interpretations.

The manuals divide the boreal forests of northwestern Ontario into 38 major forest ecosystem types. The classifications address only mature natural forests and are intended to complement the already existing forest inventory.

The Northwestern Ontario FEC database, comprising 2,200 plots, is one of the largest databases on the boreal forest in the northern hemisphere.

more...

reforestation - 2

Hydro will fund and administer contracts for seedling production, site preparation and tree planting. MNR will collect and provide the seed to grow the seedlings and assume responsibility for maintaining the new forests.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Thompson
Forest Resources Group
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6655

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

Bill Larone
Landscape and Forestry Projects
Ontario Hydro
TORONTO (416) 592-4336



Ministry of
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May 7, 1990

NEW FOUNDATION TO HELP PRIVATE SECTOR "GREEN" ONTARIO

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today announced the creation of Trees Ontario, a non-profit foundation to help corporations, groups and individuals who want to improve the province's natural environment by planting trees.

The Ontario Forestry Association (OFA) will administer the foundation with technical and financial support from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

"Sponsoring a tree is like giving the environment a gift that keeps giving back for many years. Anyone, from large newspaper publishers to corner-store owners, can get involved," Mrs. McLeod said.

"People recognize the importance of trees to our natural environment, as well as their beauty, and the Ministry of Natural Resources is pleased to offer its expertise and assistance to help Ontarians protect the environment and replace what they have consumed," Mrs. McLeod added.

"This is a real opportunity to get all kinds of groups involved in planting trees," said OFA president Bob Staley. "We want to see well-planted, well-tended trees -- and lots of them."

The OFA, founded in 1949, is a non-profit, non-political organization dedicated to public education about conservation of forests, soils, waters and wildlife. Its members include professional foresters, teachers, conservationists, students, business people and landowners.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will appoint a manager for Trees Ontario, provide administrative support and some funding for tree planting. It will make trees available and offer professional advice about planting and caring for seedlings. Corporations will also be able to purchase promotional packages of tree seeds from Trees Ontario to pass along to customers.

more...

Trees Ontario - 2

The ministry will establish an advisory board for Trees Ontario to guide the foundation's funding and operations. A number of organizations have been requested to submit names of potential board members. These include: the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Forestry Association, the Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Ontario Forest Industries Association, the Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario, the Ontario Lumber Manufacturers Association and the Conservation Council of Ontario.

Those interested in sponsoring a Trees Ontario project should contact the Ontario Forestry Association, 150 Consumers Road, Willowdale, M2J 1P9, (416) 493-4565, or MNR's Forest Resources Group, 258 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, P6A 5N5, (705) 945-6618.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jim Coats
Ontario Forestry Association
TORONTO (416) 493-4565

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

Why We Support Trees Ontario

CITY OF TORONTO

"The city's commitment to planting trees throughout southern Ontario resulted from the Changing Atmosphere conference last year. It really drew everyone's attention to the greenhouse effect and other atmospheric problems. City council, led by Councillor Tony O'Donohue, then established a special advisory committee on the environment.

"In its first report last fall, the committee recommended creating a "sink" for a portion of the city's carbon dioxide emissions. As a result, city council committed itself to achieving a 20 per cent reduction of the 1988 levels of carbon gas emissions into the city's atmosphere by 2005.

"Council agreed in principal to put \$23 million from the proceeds of the sale of a particular property into an "atmospheric trust fund." The plan is to use the interest from that trust fund to both finance and encourage the donation of matching funds from others for reforestation.

"New forests that Toronto can establish will not only help absorb carbon. They will also help offset the loss of forests in other parts of the world.

"Trees Ontario will be able to help Toronto help the world."

Art Eggleton, Mayor

DURACELL CANADA

"In many ways, the Trees Ontario program is a natural for Duracell because we've been conscious of environmental problems for some time. About 20 years ago we began trying to eliminate mercury in batteries, and today our batteries are 99.8 per cent mercury-free. All our Canadian packaging is made from recycled paper and the plastic blister holding the batteries is made from recycled pop bottles.

"This year, Duracell introduced its Help Plant Trees for Canada program after our consumers told us that, given a choice, they would rather do something for the environment than get a rebate.

"For every pack of Duracell batteries sold between May 1 and July 31 this year, Duracell will donate funds that, in Ontario, will be used to plant more than 100,000 trees in provincial Conservation Areas.

"We chose a tree planting program because it represents something positive our customers can do for our forests and fore our environment, simply by purchasing our product."

David Lindsay, President

Why We Support Trees Ontario

McCLELLAND & STEWART

The Canadian Publishers

"Everyone is concerned about the environment right now. What brought it to a head for us was doing a book last year called The Canadian Green Consumer Guide which sets out how the average person can contribute to a safer environment.

"As soon as we decided to publish, we started asking questions. Should the book be printed on recycled acid-free paper? What kind of inks should be used? How should it be packaged? Once we began thinking this way, the next step seemed to be finding ways to replace the 1,500 tonnes of paper we use every year.

"We eventually concluded we should make a positive statement, which to us meant planting some trees where they would do some good.

"I was interested in planting trees where I could see them. I was born in Toronto and have lived here all my life -- this city has been good to me, so I really wanted to do something to help improve it.

"As we wrestled with this idea and talked to various people about where the trees would go and what we could do, it inevitably led us to Trees Ontario."

Avic Bennett, Chairman and President

NABISCO BRANDS LIMITED

"Canadian consumers have increasingly realized the need to respect the environment. They expect Canadian manufacturers to recognize the needs of the community, and to adapt their operations to ensure the well-being of the environment for future generations. Nabisco Brands Grocery Division will participate in meeting this challenge.

"Nabisco Brands Grocery Division is a leading manufacturer and marketer of canned fruits and vegetables sold under the Del Monte and Aylmer trademarks. Del Monte and Aylmer have a well-established position in the minds of consumers as representing quality and value. These products start with the land and we want to re-invest in the land we gain so much from.

"One effort is joining with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Forestry Association in their Trees Ontario program. Protecting the environment is a complex issue with many facets; no single person or entity can conquer the problem alone.

"If we each contribute in some way, and Nabisco Brands Grocery Division certainly will, we as a community will preserve this earth for all generations to come."

Fred Quance, President, Nabisco Brands Grocery Division



May 8, 1990

SCIENCE NORTH EXHIBIT PREPARES STUDENTS TO MANAGE ONTARIO'S FORESTS

Ontario Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod and Canada's Minister of Forestry Frank Oberle officially opened a new forestry exhibit at Science North in Sudbury.

"The exhibit is designed to encourage young people to become interested and involved in our forests," said Mrs. McLeod. "Sparking their interest is the first step in fostering their lifetime commitment to wise forest management."

"Today's students are tomorrow's decision-makers," Mr. Oberle said. "We will need highly qualified individuals to direct the proper management of our valuable forest resources, and they can make a difference."

The exhibit was funded by the Canada-Ontario Forest Resource Development Agreement (COFRDA), a five-year federal-provincial partnership which expired last year. It touches on many aspects of Ontario's complex forest systems and their management, and provides a hands-on opportunity for Science North visitors to learn more about Ontario's forests.

Visitors can examine a tall red pine rising above the Science North floor and piece together the history of the tree's survival through various forest fires. They can peer through the twin lenses of a stereoscope to determine the number and species of trees in an aerial photo, examine the cross-section of a root system and watch carpenter ants at work.

In addition, when used in conjunction with kits developed by federal and provincial foresters and Science North staff, the exhibit becomes an intensive educational tool aimed at young people. Teachers can also use the kits in the classroom without a visit to Science North.

Each kit contains materials that enable a student to complete a number of projects, such as identifying various tree species and withdrawing core samples from trees to determine their age and health.

more...

forestry exhibit - 2

The exhibit and kits took two years to complete, with the provincial and federal governments contributing an equal share of the funding. In addition, Science North donated materials and labor, and the local forest industry provided advice and exhibit materials.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jim Miller
Ministry of Natural Resources
Northeastern Region
SUDBURY (705) 675-4120

Darcy Ortiz
Forestry Canada
Ontario Region
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 949-9461

Sarah Minhas
Ministry of Natural Resources
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



May 10, 1990

BROCK PROFESSOR WINS 1989 CWIP TROPHY

Wally Poole of Fonthill is the winner of the 1989 Community Wildlife Involvement Program (CWIP) award.

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today presented the award to Dr. Poole in a ceremony at Brock University in St. Catharines.

"This award recognizes Wally Poole's contribution to wildlife conservation and wildlife education in Ontario," Mrs. McLeod said. "His efforts and enthusiasm over the years serve to remind us how much we all can do to enhance the quality of wildlife in Ontario and encourage the stewardship of our natural resources."

Dr. Poole, a professor of education at Brock University, was awarded the CWIP trophy for his work enhancing wildlife habitat in his community. He is also a leader for Project WILD, a program aimed at teaching young people about wildlife ecology and conservation, and holds regular wildlife education workshops for teachers.

"Dr. Poole has appropriately linked CWIP and Project WILD by involving students in learning-by-doing in his CWIP projects," Mrs. McLeod said.

Dr. Poole initiated two CWIP projects in the Niagara region where elementary, secondary and university students worked together to enhance wildlife habitats on public properties. The 150 volunteers spent more than 1,000 hours planting hedgerows, native trees and shrubs on the properties. As well, he is responsible for convincing the Town of Pelham to incorporate CWIP habitat conservation principles in some of their planning documents.

The CWIP program was established by the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1985. Since its inception, the program has overseen a total of 706 projects which have involved 18,500 volunteers performing more than 167,000 hours of work in wildlife conservation.

Dr. Poole is the first individual to win the CWIP trophy. Previous winners include the Waterloo-Blenheim Rabies Control Group (1988) for their work in studying the effectiveness of hand-delivery of rabies vaccine bait in the wild; the Pollution Probe Foundation (1987) for establishing an urban wildlife habitat in downtown Toronto; and the Arnprior and District Fish and Game Club (1986) for their extensive involvement in a number of projects, especially in waterfowl habitat enhancement.

more...

CWIP award - 2

Individuals and groups wishing to get involved with CWIP projects should contact their local MNR district office.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laurel Whistance-Smith
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-4252

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
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May 23, 1990

MNR RABIES CONTROL TEAM ASKS PUBLIC TO REPORT FOXES

The Ministry of Natural Resources is asking residents within 50 kilometres of Metro Toronto to report any sightings of foxes, or especially locations of fox dens with pups within their neighborhoods.

Ministry staff will place baits containing a vaccine to immunize foxes against rabies around the dens from June 11 to June 22 as part of the second phase of MNR's urban wildlife rabies-control program. Rural fox dens are also needed as sites to test new bait attractants. The vaccine is not harmful to humans or animals.

The vaccine is effective only on foxes, pet owners should ensure their pets are properly vaccinated against rabies.

"Last year we received more than 200 calls from residents who saw foxes in their neighborhood or in nearby ravines," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said. "As a result of this co-operation, ministry staff were able to identify and distribute rabies baits around 28 red fox dens in Metro."

Anyone sighting a fox or fox dens is asked to telephone MNR's Rabies Research Unit in Maple during business hours at (416) 832-7153 or (416) 832-7154 (call collect if long distance). The boundary of the vaccination area includes the Rouge River to the east, the Credit River to the west, Major Mackenzie Drive to the north and Lake Ontario to the south.

MNR's Rabies Research Unit began an extensive rabies vaccination program last year. The program must continue through one rabies cycle of approximately four years to be effective. The Metro Toronto vaccination program is part of a provincial experimental project that includes immunization of foxes in rural and urban areas. Its goal is to immunize the majority of animals within an area so that the disease can be brought under control and eventually eliminated in Ontario.

more...

Rabies is especially prevalent in southern Ontario and is transmitted most frequently by foxes and skunks. MNR's rabies researchers are developing new methods of understanding and controlling the disease in these species. For example, MNR is using radiotelemetry, which entails capturing, immunizing and fitting some of Metro's foxes with radio collars. In this way, MNR staff can track their movements and discover how rabid animals spread the disease.

The ministry will also be conducting an experimental rabies control program in Scarborough that involves live-trapping and inoculating skunks. Inoculation is required because the oral vaccine for foxes is not effective for skunks.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dr. Rick Rosatte
Wildlife Research Section
MAPLE (416) 832-7154

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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May 24, 1990

W. DENNIS TIEMAN APPOINTED MINING AND LANDS COMMISSIONER

W. Dennis Tieman has been appointed Ontario's new Mining and Lands Commissioner, effective June 1, Minister of Natural Resources Lyn McLeod announced today. Mr. Tieman is now Assistant Deputy Minister, Mines and Minerals Division, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

"Dennis Tieman began his distinguished career with the Ministry of Natural Resources. We welcome the experience and judgement he brings to the post of Mining and Lands Commissioner," Mrs. McLeod said.

"Dennis Tieman's familiarity with mining issues and the mining community, and his significant contributions to recent amendments to the Mining Act, are excellent qualifications for his new position," Minister of Mines Hugh P. O'Neil said.

The Mining and Lands Commissioner performs functions of an administrative and judicial nature under the Mining Act, which is administered by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

The Commissioner also holds hearings and makes recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources under the Aggregate Resources Act and the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, and hears appeals under the Conservation Authorities Act.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Mr. Tieman graduated with honors from the University of Toronto in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry. Upon graduation, he joined the Ministry of Natural Resources, then known as the Department of Lands and Forests, and worked at various locations in eastern and northern Ontario before assuming responsibility for that ministry's Office of Budget and Program Analysis in 1970.

more...

mining - 2

Between 1973 and 1979 Mr. Tieman held successive posts with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Cabinet Committee on Resources Development and the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. In 1985, he was appointed Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer of the Ministry of Northern Affairs. He was named Assistant Deputy Minister of Mines in 1985 in the newly established Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

Mr. Tieman is married to Janet Katharine Coutts. They have two daughters.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



May 25, 1990

FOREST TENT CATERPILLARS ARE BACK AGAIN

Forest insect experts with the Ministry of Natural Resources predict that many Ontario residents will discover unwanted guests on their property over the next few weeks, now that forest tent caterpillars have hatched.

In some parts of the province, people strolling through the woods or working in their gardens will notice the small, hairy, black caterpillars either crawling on leaves or hanging from them. In the coming weeks, those caterpillars will be busy stripping leaves from broadleaf trees such as oak, aspen and maple.

"In most cases, leaves will grow back on the affected trees by late June or early July, and the trees will survive," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said. "Natural controls will end the infestations."

Birds such as the cuckoo and insects such as the friendly fly are two of the 40 natural predators of the caterpillars. Property owners may still choose to do their own spraying with a registered insecticide or hire a licensed contractor to conduct the spraying.

Last year, the provincial infestation by forest tent caterpillars covered 7,915 square kilometres, mostly in the northwestern, central and southern parts of the province.

This year, severe defoliation is expected in a broad band along the Canada-U.S. border from Thunder Bay west to Lake of the Woods, as well as in scattered locations near Lake Nipigon, Geraldton and Terrace Bay. Moderate-to-severe defoliation is predicted around White River and north of Hearst and Kapuskasing.

In the southern and central parts of the province, defoliation is expected to be moderate-to-severe. In the south, infestations will likely be focused on the Parry Sound, Muskoka and Haliburton districts, northern Algonquin Park, parts of Renfrew County, the Kawartha Lakes, the northern part of Simcoe County and around Owen Sound. In central Ontario, infestations are expected along a broad band stretching from North Bay through Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie.

more...

The forecast for next year's infestation will be made after surveys are taken this fall. Entomologists will count deposits of forest tent caterpillar eggs on trees in sample forest areas, then predict the severity of infestation for the following spring.

The forest tent caterpillar is a longtime resident of Ontario. Outbreaks of infestation have occurred every 10 to 12 years since the caterpillars were first recorded in 1868, and an infestation lasts three to four years in a given area.

Property owners wishing to learn more about forest tent caterpillars and their control should contact their local MNR district office.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Joseph Churcher
Forest Management Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 759-5725

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



May 31, 1990

MNR BEGINS ANNUAL AERIAL SPRAYING TO COMBAT GYPSY MOTH

Over the next few weeks, the Ministry of Natural Resources will conduct aerial spraying throughout southern Ontario to combat infestations of gypsy moth.

"Last year's warmer winter and summer temperatures have contributed to a larger gypsy moth population," said Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod. "Because the infestation has been spreading, we will have to spray a much larger area this year to keep up with it."

Forestry Canada surveys indicate that more than 80,000 hectares of Ontario forest land were moderately to severely defoliated by gypsy moth in 1989, almost triple the area affected the year before.

The Ministry will conduct 10 spraying projects this year to maintain the health and vigor of high-value forest areas. The project covers more than 35,000 hectares of heavily-infested hardwood forests in an attempt to limit defoliation caused by the pest. Aircraft will spray a biological insecticide called Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.), which is harmless to mammals, birds and fish.

Roughly one-sixth of the area to be sprayed is Crown land, and includes five provincial parks: Awenda, Six Mile Lake, Ferris, Turkey Point and Wheatley. Visitors to those parks will receive written notification of plans to spray, and will be asked to leave the park during the spraying. They will be able to return immediately afterward.

The spray program is offered by MNR in co-operation with local authorities, including the counties of Lanark, Frontenac, Renfrew, Leeds and Grenville, Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Peterborough, Northumberland and Prince Edward, Haliburton and Victoria; the Township of West Carleton; and the regional municipalities of Niagara, Hamilton-Wentworth and Haldimand-Norfolk. Property owners who experience serious infestations this year and are interested in being included in next year's spraying program should contact their municipal office this summer and ask to speak to the gypsy moth co-ordinator.



more...

Gypsy moths have been present in Ontario since 1981. So far, they have not caused any serious permanent damage to Ontario's hardwood stands, since most of the trees they infest are able to survive defoliation and produce a second set of leaves later in the summer.

However, it is not fully known what the long-term effects of gypsy moth defoliation might be. The ministry's Southern Ontario Forest Health Unit and Forestry Canada have established study plots to assist them in monitoring the impact of the pest.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Cindy Krishka
Southern Ontario Forest Health Unit
TWEED (613) 478-2330

Jim McCready
Carleton Place District
CARLETON PLACE (613) 257-5735

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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June 4, 1990

ONTARIO CELEBRATES PARKS DAY IN CANADA

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today invited Ontarians to join in a celebration of Canada's first Parks Day on Saturday, June 9 -- for free.

The minister has waived day-use admission fees for anyone who wants to visit an Ontario provincial park on June 9.

"Parks Day is a great chance for Canadians from coast to coast to join together and express their feelings about these wonderful areas that have been set aside for everyone," Mrs. McLeod said.

"Here in Ontario, we have a lot to celebrate -- 261 provincial parks covering six million hectares of land and water, most of which is wilderness or nature reserve."

This week, Mrs. McLeod will celebrate Parks Day with visits to Bronte Creek Provincial Park in Burlington on Thursday and to Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park near Thunder Bay on Friday.

In other Ontario parks, thousands of park visitors will be joining in canoe races, special birdwatching hikes, barbecues, flower and plant identification classes, scavenger hunts and evening singsongs around campfires.

The slogan for Parks Day is: Canada's Parks -- A Public Trust, Society's Treasures.

"Our parks are a trust we hold on behalf of future generations. We encourage Ontarians to take an active interest in their parks and be assured their participation is welcomed," Mrs. McLeod said.

Last year, Ontario's provincial parks system attracted almost eight million visitors, and 44 new parks were brought into regulation under the Provincial Parks Act.

parks day - 2

Parks Day activities have been planned by all provincial, territorial and federal agencies, which administer a total of 33 million hectares of parkland that have been set aside in Canada.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Fred Bishop
Parks and Recreational Areas Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1245

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



CARON
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June 6, 1990

DR. PETER PEARSE APPOINTED TO ADVISE ON DESIGN OF FOREST POLICY REVIEW

Dr. Peter Pearse has been appointed to identify issues and provide advice on appropriate structure and process for a major review of Ontario's forest policy.

"Dr. Pearse is ideally qualified to identify issues, mechanisms and procedures for a review of forest policy," said Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod. "His report will be the first step in the development of a new, comprehensive policy to guide the future of Ontario's forests."

During the next several weeks, Dr. Pearse will prepare an action plan for the ministry's review of its over-all forest policy for Ontario. The plan will include the appropriate scope of the review and mechanisms for carrying it out.

Dr. Pearse, a professor at the University of British Columbia for the last 28 years, is a specialist in natural resource policy. He has carried out several reviews and has headed Royal Commissions into natural resources policies in Canada. He has also acted as an advisor on Africa and Southeast Asia to the United Nations and the World Bank.

Dr. Pearse will report to the Minister in August. The forest policy review is expected to begin soon after.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756





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June 7, 1990

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TWENTY-SIX PROVINCIAL PARKS TO INTRODUCE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Twenty-six Ontario provincial parks will introduce recycling programs this summer jointly operated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Government Services.

Of the 26 provincial parks, 17 parks will introduce bottle and can recycling. Another nine parks will offer beverage-can recycling.

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod and Government Services Minister, Chris Ward announced the \$450,000 program today at Bronte Creek Provincial Park near Burlington.

"Ultimately, visitors will be able to recycle in our provincial parks as easily as they do at home," said Mrs. McLeod.

"Recycling in provincial parks is one part of the provincial program to reduce waste disposal by 25 per cent by 1992 and 50 per cent by the year 2000," said Mr. Ward.

The recycling program, which began as a pilot project in Presqu'île Provincial Park last summer, will be in place in 26 parks this season, including Algonquin, Killbear, Lake Superior, Rondeau, Wasaga Beach, Bronte Creek, Sandbanks and Fitzroy.

The program will be expanded to other parks as local recycling opportunities emerge.

The 1989 pilot project and a consultant's study in Presqu'île park indicated that 27 tonnes, or about one-quarter of the waste produced by that park's 220,000 visitors over the summer, could be recycled. A survey also showed 94 per cent of the park's visitors favored recycling and would use recycling containers if they were supplied.

The recycling program, which will begin shortly after the parks have received their special recycling bins and other equipment, will vary from park to park. In some areas, municipal recycling programs are not yet capable of processing certain materials, for example, plastic bottles.

more...

The recycling bins are designed to be versatile so that they can be expanded to take more items, such as plastic bottles, or to allow for color separation of glass. The bins are also designed to resist intrusion by wild animals.

The recycling program will also employ 47 workers in Ontario's Environmental Youth Corps, a program that gives 15- to 24-year-olds an opportunity to work on environmental projects for 18 weeks at a time.

This new recycling initiative complements an existing program in parks such as Algonquin, Quetico, Killarney and Lake Superior, where MNR has attempted to reduce waste problems by not allowing back-country hikers and canoeists to carry food or beverages in cans or bottles into the park interior.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Don Hallman
Parks and Recreational Areas Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1245

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

Dave Sparling
Waste Management Program
Ministry of Government Services
TORONTO (416) 965-4955

ADVISORY

The following provincial parks will introduce can and bottle recycling programs during the 1990 parks season:

Algonquin
Arrowhead
Awenda
Balsam Lake
Bronte Creek
Earl Rowe
Emily
Fitzroy
Killbear
Lake Superior
Presqu'île
Rideau River
Rondeau
Sandbanks
Six Mile Lake
Sturgeon Bay
Wasaga Beach

Because local recycling programs are not yet capable of accepting all materials, these provincial parks will offer beverage can recycling only:

Aaron
Blue Lake
Kakabeka Falls
MacGregor Point
Neys
Port Burwell
Rainbow Falls
Sauble Falls
Sleeping Giant



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June 8, 1990

MINISTRIES ANNOUNCE NEW TOURISM FACILITIES FOR KAKABEKA FALLS PARK

The ministries of Natural Resources and Northern Development are jointly funding a \$250,000 pedestrian walkway with three viewing pods to be constructed this year along an historic portage trail at Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park.

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod and Taras Kozyra, Parliamentary Assistant to Northern Development Minister René Fontaine, made the announcement while celebrating Parks Day at Kakabeka Falls with senior citizens, public school children and other visitors to the park.

"These new facilities will bring the magic of Kakabeka a little closer for all visitors," Mrs. McLeod said. "It's the kind of untamed quality that will be celebrated tomorrow during Parks Day across Canada."

The 30-metre high Kakabeka Falls, 22 kilometres west of Thunder Bay, is a prime northwestern Ontario tourist attraction, especially during the spring and fall, when water flows are high.

"Northwestern Ontario's provincial parks are full of natural wonders," said Mr. Kozyra, MPP for Port Arthur. "The facilities we've helped provide are designed to complement those wonders."

The construction of the portage trail and viewing pods marks the completion of a walkway construction program to improve viewing and visitor safety at Kakabeka Falls.

Today, there are boardwalks with three viewing pods on either side of the falls, and a pedestrian walkway spanning the river a short distance upstream from the point where the Kaministiquia River plunges into a gorge. The new walkway being built this year runs along the gorge and returns following the trail used by early fur traders portaging around the falls.

more...



Kakabeka Falls - 2

Mrs. McLeod noted that the new trail is the most recent phase of a \$1.4-million tourism improvement program at Kakabeka Falls. Including the portage trail, the Ministry of Natural Resources will have spent \$920,000 and the Ministry of Northern Development another \$504,000 since 1980 on pedestrian walkways and viewing pods, a new visitor centre and displays, and reconstruction of the top of the falls to prevent further erosion of the rock by the Kaministiquia River.

To reinforce the edge, the spillway was capped with a special concrete which contained a plasticizing agent for durability and was colored so the caprock matches the surrounding rock. The reconstruction also widened the crestline of the falls from nine metres to 90 metres, the width of the crestline in the 1950s.

Following the announcement of the construction of the portage trail at Kakabeka Falls, Mrs. McLeod cut a ribbon to officially mark the completion of the visitor centre and the other facilities, and joined visitors at an outdoor barbecue for a day-early celebration of Parks Day.

Tomorrow, thousands of park visitors across Canada will be taking part in special events on Parks Day to celebrate the designation of natural areas for recreation and for the protection of natural heritage features.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Donna Smith
North Central Region
THUNDER BAY (807) 475-1695

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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June 18, 1990

MNR FOREST OF THE YEAR CEREMONY HONORS KIRKWOOD CROWN MANAGEMENT UNIT

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod honored the Kirkwood Crown Management Unit today as Ontario's Forest of the Year for 1990.

The ceremony took place in the Heritage Park of the Township of Thessalon, near the town of Little Rapids, 90 kilometres east of Sault Ste. Marie.

"For 62 years, the province and the local community have been practising forest renewal in Kirkwood," Mrs. McLeod said. "Today the forest provides a variety of wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and year-round and seasonal employment. It's an excellent example of sustainable forest management."

Mrs. McLeod also declared open the new Kirkwood tour route. The development of the route, and a brochure for visitors, has been jointly sponsored by MNR's Blind River District and the Township of Thessalon, with help from the Thessalon Township Heritage Association and the Algoma Fish and Recreation Association.

The province began acquiring abandoned land and planting seedlings in the 1,100-square-kilometre area in 1928. The southern portion of the area, known as the Kirkwood Prairie, had been stripped of its pine forest and repeatedly burned over by farmers seeking to enrich the soil.

By 1938, half a million trees were being planted annually, and by 1973, more than 7,000 hectares of plantations had been established. Today, more than 23 million trees of a wide variety of species have been planted.

Mrs. McLeod presented plaques to William Lannin, manager of the MNR Blind River District, and to Norma Cochrane, reeve of the Township of Thessalon, and unveiled a bronze plaque at the gateway to the forest.

more...

forest of the year -- 2

"The people who planned and worked in this forest made a commitment to future generations," said Mrs. McLeod. "Their vision is a model for all of us concerned about our resources and our planet."

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EDITORS : Please note fact sheet is attached.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Fox
Blind River District
BLIND RIVER (705) 356-2234

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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June 21, 1990

MNR LISTS TWO BUTTERFLIES, REMOVES ONE FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

Two species of butterfly now are protected under the province's Endangered Species Act, while another is no longer considered endangered and has been reclassified.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has designated the Frosted Elfin and the Karner Blue butterflies as endangered species because they could become extinct in Ontario as a result of habitat loss.

"The ministry is concerned about the long-term survival of these two butterflies," Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod said. "Designation under the Endangered Species Act protects the habitat of the Frosted Elfin and Karner Blue and protects the butterflies from collection."

The number of known locations in Ontario where the West Virginia White butterfly is found has increased, enabling MNR to redesignate it as rare, a state requiring ongoing vigilance but not the extreme protective measures represented by designation under the Endangered Species Act.

"I plan to establish a committee, involving groups such as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, to recommend measures to strengthen management of rare, threatened and endangered species and to strengthen the Endangered Species Act," Mrs. McLeod said.

At present, the Act does not provide protection for the habitat of species classed as rare.

The ministry also plans to propose amendments to the Game and Fish Act to permit protection of invertebrates which are not afforded protection now under provincial legislation. This will enable the passage of regulations forbidding the collection of specifically named rare or threatened invertebrates, such as the West Virginia White butterfly.

more...

The committee that reviews the Endangered Species Act will work in co-operation with the Wildlife Working Group which MNR has established to review wildlife issues in the province.

The Frosted Elfin ranges in size from one to one and a half inches, and is brownish orange with gray frosting beneath the wings. It is thought to be found at only one site in Canada, an area near Simcoe. The area was recently purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Canada in co-operation with MNR and Wildlife Habitat Canada and will now be protected.

The Karner Blue has a wingspan of one and a half inches. Males are a spectacular bright blue above, with a narrow black border between a white fringe. The butterfly is currently known to be found only in an area in Bosanquet Township, near Grand Bend. A Karner Blue habitat site in Bosanquet Township was recently purchased by Lambton Wildlife Incorporated, with funding from the Carolinian Canada program. In addition, MNR is working with a number of landowners to protect the butterfly's habitat on their properties.

"I am pleased with the enthusiastic response ministry staff has received from landowners we have asked to assist us in protecting Karner Blue habitat," Mrs. McLeod said.

In 1977, when the West Virginia White butterfly was designated as endangered, the species was known to be found in only two areas of Ontario, Halton region and Manitoulin Island. An MNR monitoring study, under way this spring, shows the species is now found in at least eight areas of the province.

The study has verified 50 previously known sites for West Virginia White butterflies in southern Ontario from Halton region, Manitoulin Island, and Frontenac, Elgin and Middlesex counties. In addition, the butterfly was found at 12 new sites, including two in the Sault Ste. Marie area and others in Victoria and Lanark counties.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Doug Hagan
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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June 22, 1990

MNR RESEARCH IMPROVES DEER MANAGEMENT

Increased deer populations will allow the province to open some new deer hunting seasons and lengthen others in 1990, Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod announced today.

Five years of research by MNR now are yielding detailed information on deer feeding habits, migration patterns and mortality, in addition to a method for accurately measuring the natural food supply.

"As a result, our wildlife managers are using these data to establish much more reliable population targets in deer management areas," Mrs. McLeod said. "Ontario's deer population has tripled since the ministry established its selective harvest program 10 years ago."

The ministry's management plan is to keep the deer population just below the maximum capacity of the winter habitat to support them throughout most of the deer range. This sustains the health of the animals and avoids dramatic changes in deer numbers and the problems associated with overpopulation, such as vegetation damage and weakened animals. Methods for achieving this include regulating sport hunting, managing deer habitat, controlling poaching and managing predators.

Last year deer numbers were high across the province and they remain high again this year. Although winter came early this year, with cold temperatures and deep snow as early as November in much of central Ontario, an early thaw and milder late winter conditions were favorable for the deer population.

For the 1990 deer hunting season, new muzzle-loading gun seasons have been added in wildlife management units 8 and 82, in addition to a new bow season in unit 47. Unit 8 has an earlier gun season this year. The seasons have been extended to five days in units 76, 77, 78A, 78B, 81, 90, 91 and 92.

more...

deer season - 2

Hunters are advised that deer licences, which are required to hunt antlerless deer, will be available in early June. Hunters wishing to apply for an antlerless deer tag must return the completed application to an MNR district office or to the address on the application no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 31, 1990.

Applications to hunt in controlled areas must be returned to the MNR district office that corresponds to the hunter's first choice of wildlife management unit by 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 31, 1990. Hunters who have failed to return their 1989 mandatory report form are ineligible for a 1990 controlled deer hunt tag.

The 1990-91 Hunting Regulations Summary, which will be available in early summer, outlines hunting seasons for all areas of the province. It can be obtained from any MNR district office or from the Public Information Centre, Room 1640, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, M7A 1W3 or by calling (416) 965-4251.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ray Stefanski
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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June 26, 1990

**JIM FRENCH TO CHAIR
ROUGE VALLEY PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Jim French has been chosen to chair the Rouge Valley Park advisory committee, Scarborough-Agincourt MPP Gerry Phillips announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod. The committee will develop a plan for the first phase of the proposed Rouge River Valley Park.

Mr. French recently retired as a senior vice-president at a large insurance company. He has served as a trustee on the Scarborough Board of Education, including four years as chair. Mr. French was also founding president of the Canadian Wildflower Society.

"The Rouge Valley is the most ambitious urban park project in Canada's history. Planning the management of its unique natural, historic and recreational features is an important and challenging task," Mrs. McLeod said.

"The committee will ensure that there are numerous opportunities for groups and individuals with an interest in the area to get involved in the planning process," said Mr. Phillips.

The committee will recommend within one year a comprehensive management plan for the initial 4,300-acre (1,750-hectare) area of the park. The plan will deal with most of the Rouge Valley lands between Steeles Avenue and Lake Ontario. The recommendations are to include what type of park should be established, which agency or combination of agencies should manage the area, and what private lands should be acquired. The committee will submit its recommendations to the Minister.

The committee members represent 14 government and non-government agencies and interest groups. They include:

- **Marci Burgess**, intergovernmental affairs assistant for the Union of Ontario Indians, representing the Chiefs of Ontario;
- **Glenn De Baeremaeker**, secretary of the Coalition of Scarborough Community Associations;
- **Sandy Gage**, representing the Federation of Ontario Naturalists;
- **Art Holder**, regional director, Ministry of Natural Resources;

more...

- **Stephen Marshall**, first vice-president of the Save the Rouge Valley System, Inc.;
- **Bill McLean**, general manager of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority;
- **Katherine Murray**, executive member of the Coalition for Pickering, representing the Town of Pickering;
- **Bob Sanders**, councillor for the Scarborough Malvern ward, for Metropolitan Toronto;
- **Andre Scheinman**, heritage preservation consultant and member of the Toronto Region Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario;
- **Geoffrey Sutherland**, former director of the Ontario Archaeological Society;
- **Joyce Trimmer**, mayor, City of Scarborough;
- **David Tsubouchi**, councillor for Ward V in Markham for the Town of Markham; and
- **Calvin White**, general manager, Metropolitan Toronto Zoo.

In addition, the Government of Canada has been invited to nominate a representative.

The advisory committee's first meeting is expected to take place in late June.

Mrs. McLeod announced March 20 that the Rouge Valley area would be protected as a park. The Ontario government is donating an additional 1,600 acres (650 hectares) of land beyond its earlier contributions for the park. If developed, the land would have an estimated value of \$1.1 billion.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bruce King
Central Region
AURORA (416) 841-9332

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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June 28, 1990

NEW VISITOR CENTRE AND LOGGING MUSEUM FOR ALGONQUIN PARK

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today officially launched construction of two major centennial projects for Algonquin Provincial Park -- a \$7.9-million visitor centre and a \$1-million outdoor logging museum.

"These facilities will be the focus of the celebration of Algonquin's 100th birthday in 1993, the year we celebrate the centennial of our provincial parks system," said Mrs. McLeod. "The facilities will educate and fascinate visitors, and should become two of the most popular tourist attractions in the Algonquin area."

The new 2,400-square-metre visitor centre will be located on Highway 60 about 13 kilometres west of the park's east gate. It will house exhibits showing the park's human and natural history, a theatre, a restaurant and a bookstore.

The natural history section will introduce visitors to the geological history and major wildlife habitats of the Algonquin area. The human history section will trace the impact of native peoples, early European settlers, the early park rangers, the Group of Seven artists and other groups on the park.

The new outdoor logging museum, located half-a-kilometre west of the park's east gate, will feature a 1.2-kilometre trail, which will be wheelchair accessible, linking more than a dozen exhibition areas. Construction of one exhibit, a replica of a camboose logging camp, is already nearing completion.

Mrs. McLeod, who is also the Minister of Energy, praised the environment-friendly heating system to be used in the visitor centre. Ethylene glycol -- the basic ingredient in antifreeze -- will be circulated through a closed network of underground pipes to absorb the earth's heat. This energy source will be used to help warm the centre in winter and cool it in summer.

more...

The new visitor centre will feature a rear viewing deck which will provide a panoramic view of lakes, hills, valleys, bogs and conifer and hardwood forests.

Funding for the new facilities is being provided by MNR, the Friends of Algonquin Park and the Algonquin Forestry Authority. The Friends of Algonquin, an association that supports the park's educational and interpretive programs, has already contributed \$36,000 for the construction of exhibits at the logging museum. In addition, MNR and the Friends of Algonquin Park have signed a fundraising agreement which is expected to result in major funding for the new visitor centre and logging museum through donations and corporate sponsorships.

The Algonquin Forest Authority, a provincial agency that manages the park's forests for wood supplies and for the protection of the park environment, has donated \$10,000 in building materials for the visitor centre and logging museum.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ron Tozer
Algonquin Provincial Park
WHITNEY (705) 633-5592 or 663-5505

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles



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Government of Canada

July 5, 1990

ZEBRA MUSSELS SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE GREAT LAKES -- MNR MONITORING SURVEYS SHOW

Recent studies by the Ministry of Natural Resources show zebra mussels are spreading through the Great Lakes system faster than expected.

During a special two-week study, conducted in addition to MNR's ongoing monitoring, mussels were discovered by divers at sites near Burlington and Mississauga in Lake Ontario, as well as at the harbor in Prescott on the St. Lawrence River. The ministry now expects the mussels to reach Toronto waters by this summer.

"The results support our concern that zebra mussel populations are expanding and are posing an increasingly serious threat to the Great Lakes system," said Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod.

The zebra mussel, a native species of Europe, was first identified in 1988 in Lake St. Clair. The tiny, striped, clam-like mollusc breeds at an alarming rate: one adult female mussel can produce 30,000 eggs a year. It also spreads quickly. One method is by attaching itself to boat hulls. As a result, the mussel has spread throughout Lake Erie and into western Lake Ontario in less than three years.

The underwater monitoring survey, conducted in June, explored 16 sites: the mouth of the Niagara River; two sites in Hamilton harbor; the Burlington canal; the St. Lawrence Cement dock in Mississauga; two sites in Toronto harbor; Cobourg harbor; St. Lawrence Cement at Lakeview near Colborne; the Lake Ontario Cement docks in Picton harbor in the Bay of Quinte; Confederation Basin in Kingston; Olympic harbor in Kingston; Meyer's Pier in Belleville; and three sites in the St. Lawrence River near Prescott.

Zebra mussels were found at the Niagara River mouth, one site in the Hamilton harbor, Burlington, St. Lawrence Cement dock in Mississauga, Lake Ontario Cement docks in Picton harbor in the Bay of Quinte, and at Prescott.

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The Ministry of Natural Resources is leading the province's efforts to slow the spread of zebra mussels. Huron MPP Jack Riddell, Parliamentary Assistant to Mrs. McLeod, is chairing an interministerial steering committee which is developing a comprehensive approach to the zebra mussel problem. Representatives from the ministries of Natural Resources, the Environment, Municipal Affairs, Intergovernmental Affairs, Tourism and Recreation, and Treasury and Economics, plus Ontario Hydro are working together to co-ordinate an effective monitoring program and to determine ways to limit the spread of these mussels.

In addition to the research programs, the ministry has launched a major communications program to advise people about the issue. Weatherized signs, posters and pamphlets have been sent to marinas, boat launches and bait fish dealers.

Central to all this is the Guideline on zebra mussels prepared by the ministry. The Guideline urges charter boat operators, anglers, recreational boaters and other water users to take precautions to help slow the spread of zebra mussels, especially into inland waters. These precautions include cleaning boats before moving them from an infested lake to another lake; taking boats out of the water and inspecting them before entering inland waterways from the Great Lakes; and cleaning the hull of any boat that feels grainy -- a sign that it might contain zebra mussel larvae.

"Our key task at present is to educate the public about the need to work together in taking steps to slow down the spread of the mussels," Mrs. McLeod said.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Doug Dodge
Fisheries Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7885

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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July 17, 1990

MNR AND UNIVERSITIES ESTABLISH ADVANCED FORESTRY PROGRAM

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Lakehead University and the University of Toronto will begin this fall a program of advanced forest management studies for professional foresters and resource managers in Ontario.

Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod today announced the Ontario Advanced Forestry Program at a news conference at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

"Through the Ontario Advanced Forestry Program, MNR will be actively involved in furthering the development of highly trained and better-informed resource professionals," Mrs. McLeod said.

The program is being delivered through Lakehead University and the University of Toronto. The Forest Resources Group of the Ministry of Natural Resources is providing funding.

The program will involve 30 resource professionals from across the province. It will consist of six, intensive two-week study modules spread over one year, with the first module to begin October 1 at Lakehead University. At least 15 of the participants will be MNR staff.

"This program will play an important role in ensuring environmentally sensitive forest management and stimulating valuable exchanges among a wide range of resource professionals," said Dianne Common, Dean of Professional Studies at Lakehead University.

"Considerable thought and planning have gone into the development of this program," said Rod Carrow, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto. "It will provide an opportunity for middle management foresters in government and industry to learn about the latest in forest science."

The Ontario Advanced Forestry Program will provide resource professionals with the latest information and technical training in their field, including the biology, ecology, economics and silviculture of contemporary forest management.

more...

Prominent educators and managers will re-examine scientific principles, present current research and lead discussions on problem-solving, forestry operations and their effects on the environment.

The Ontario Advanced Forestry Program is directed by a Steering Committee composed of the Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto; the Director of the School of Forestry, Lakehead University; the Director of MNR's Forest Management Branch; and representatives of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association and the Ontario Forest Industries Association.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jim Park
Forest Resources Group
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6607

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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August 23, 1990

SPORT FISHING LICENCE FEES FROZEN FOR 1991

Ontario sport fishing licences will cost the same in 1991 as they did in 1990, Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod announced today.

The price freeze is in effect while the ministry is reviewing all fishing licence fees.

"The public will be consulted in the development of a multi-year licence strategy for 1992 and beyond, to ensure that licence revenues continue to help sustain and improve Ontario's aquatic ecosystems," Mrs. McLeod said.

Most Ontario residents, Canadian residents, and non-residents require a licence to fish in Ontario. Currently, a resident sport fishing licence costs \$11.50 for the season and \$6.50 for a four-day licence.

The 1991 Ontario fishing licences go on sale on December 1, 1990 and are available at many tourist camps and lodges, summer camps, hotels and sporting goods dealers.

-30-

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Karen Jones
Fisheries Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7885

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756





September 13, 1990

SALE OF GAME HIDES AND CAST ANTLERS NOW LEGAL

It is now legal to sell game hides and cast antlers, provided vendors and purchasers have the appropriate licences.

Under a provincial regulation which became law on September 7, hides and cast antlers may be sold or purchased. The sale or purchase of most other game parts will continue to be illegal and the prohibition will be enforced by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Cast antlers are defined as intact and untreated antlers that have dropped naturally from living caribou, deer or moose. Game hides are defined as untanned and untreated skins of black bear, deer or moose. In the case of black bear, the hide may include the head and the claws attached to the skin. In the case of deer or moose, the hide does not include the head.

The regulation falls under Section 51 of the Game and Fish Act. It requires anyone wishing to buy or sell game hides or cast antlers to obtain a licence from a district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Licences for purchases or sales for personal use are free; licences for purchases or sales for commercial purposes cost \$35.00.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Murray Smith
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-4252

Mojmir Chromec
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-4252

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756





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September 20, 1990

CLOSE TO 84,000 HUNTERS SUCCESSFUL IN DRAW TO HUNT ANTLERLESS DEER

The Ministry of Natural Resources has issued 83,996 validation tags to hunters to hunt antlerless deer during the 1990 season.

A steady increase in the province's deer population has allowed MNR to issue more tags this year than in 1989.

Successful applicants will receive their tags in the mail in mid-September. Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified. Approximately 98,500 hunters applied for this year's random draw, up from 91,000 last year.

Hunters wishing to harvest antlerless deer must apply to the random draw for a validation tag under the ministry's selective harvest program. Any hunter with a valid deer licence can harvest an antlered deer.

The objective of the program is to hold the number of deer just below the capacity of the range to support them, to ensure that the deer herd remains healthy, and to avoid the dramatic changes in herd sizes associated with overpopulation.

This year, the gun season for deer opens in many areas of the province on November 5. Archery seasons begin in most areas on October 15. Hunters should check the Summary of Hunting Regulations 1990-91 or the 1990 Deer Hunter's Fact Sheet for specific opening dates.

Hunters requiring additional information should contact the local MNR district office in the area in which they plan to hunt, or MNR's Public Information Centre, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, M7A 1W3, telephone (416) 965-4251.

- 30 -



REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ray Stefanski
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

Le 20 septembre 1990

**PRÈS DE 84 000 CHASSEURS REÇOIVENT UNE VIGNETTE
POUR CHASSER LE CHEVREUIL SANS BOIS**

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles a délivré 83 996 vignettes de validation pour la chasse au chevreuil sans bois en 1990.

Une augmentation continue de la population de chevreuils dans la province a permis au MRN de délivrer plus de vignettes cette année qu'en 1989.

Les personnes choisies au sort recevront leur vignette par la poste vers la mi-septembre. Les personnes qui n'ont pas obtenu de vignette ne recevront pas d'avis. Quelque 98 500 chasseurs ont fait une demande pour participer au tirage au sort de cette année, ce qui représente une augmentation par rapport à 91 000 en 1989.

Les chasseurs qui désirent chasser des chevreuils sans bois doivent participer au tirage au sort de vignettes de validation dans le cadre du programme de récolte sélective du ministère. Toute personne détenant un permis de chasse au chevreuil valide peut chasser le chevreuil avec bois.

Le but du programme est de continuer à gérer la population de chevreuils pour qu'elle atteigne presque la capacité maximale du territoire tout en assurant leur bien-être et en évitant les problèmes de surpopulation.

Cette année, la saison de chasse au chevreuil avec arme à feu ouvrira le 5 novembre dans la plupart des régions de l'Ontario, et la chasse à l'arc le 15 octobre. Les chasseurs devraient consulter le Résumé des règlements de la chasse 1990-1991 ou le bulletin d'actualités sur la chasse au chevreuil de 1990 pour obtenir les dates précises.

Les chasseurs qui veulent obtenir de plus amples renseignements devraient communiquer avec le bureau de district du MRN de la région où ils prévoient chasser, ou le Centre d'information du MRN, Édifice Whitney, 99, rue Wellesley ouest, Toronto, M7A 1W3, téléphone : (416) 965-4251.

- 30 -

EDITOR'S NOTE: English version available.

SOURCES :

Ray Stefanski
Direction de la faune
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Francine Poirier
Direction des services
de communications
TORONTO (416) 963-3170

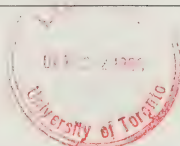


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October 4, 1990

MNR RESUMES RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM IN EASTERN ONTARIO

The Ministry of Natural Resources is continuing a major rabies control program in eastern Ontario aimed at immunizing foxes, the major carrier of the disease in rural areas.

From October 10 to 30 (weather permitting), MNR researchers will drop about 540,000 vaccine-baits from low-flying aircraft over farms and wooded areas east of Napanee on Lake Ontario and from the eastern boundary of Algonquin Park to the Quebec border.

This is the second year of a five-year, experimental program to control rabies in Ontario.

The baits are brownie-sized cubes of waxy material scented with artificial chicken flavor. Each contains a blister pack of rabies vaccine and is clearly marked "Rabies Vaccine -- DO NOT EAT." No baits will be dropped over water bodies, residential areas or schools, or near farm buildings.

By eating the bait, a fox will be protected against rabies. The program aims to immunize a majority of foxes to prevent rabies from spreading to domestic and farm animals, and to humans. However, because rabies occurs in four-year cycles, it will take several more years before MNR researchers will know if vaccinating foxes in this way can control rabies.

The 1990 bait program will cover the counties of Frontenac (including Wolfe Island and Howe Island); Lanark, Leeds and Grenville; Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; and Prescott and Russell. Also baited will be most of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Renfrew County, and Lennox and Addington County (including Amherst Island).

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The ministry has provided local school boards with an information package, including letters to school principals and to parents and guardians, asking them to explain to children that the baits are medicine for foxes and that they should leave the baits alone.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dr. Charles MacInnes
Wildlife Research Section
MAPLE (416) 832-7154

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



FACT SHEET • ACTUALITÉS

October 1990

MNR RABIES PROGRAM 1990

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will spend \$2.6 million on its rabies research and control program in 1990-91. The program will focus on foxes and skunks, the major carriers of rabies.

The program involves two components:

I **Urban Rabies Program**

In Metropolitan Toronto, MNR will continue its program to immunize foxes and skunks in populated areas. Baits containing an oral vaccine to immunize foxes are placed in ravines. Within the City of Scarborough, skunks are trapped, vaccinated by an injection, and released.

The City of Windsor will conduct a trap-vaccinate-release program for skunks throughout the city for the first time this year.

II **Rural Rabies Program**

In eastern Ontario, MNR will continue a large-scale experimental rabies control project aimed at immunizing foxes, the major carrier of the disease in rural areas. This is the second year of a five-year, experimental program to control rabies in Ontario.

The Eastern Ontario Rural Rabies Program

- The goal of the project is to immunize the majority of foxes in an area to prevent rabies from spreading to domestic and farm animals, and to humans.
- From October 10 to 30 (weather permitting), MNR researchers will drop about 540,000 vaccine-baits from low-flying aircraft over farmlands and bushlands in areas east of Napanee on Lake Ontario and the eastern boundary of Algonquin Park to the Quebec border.

rural rabies - 2

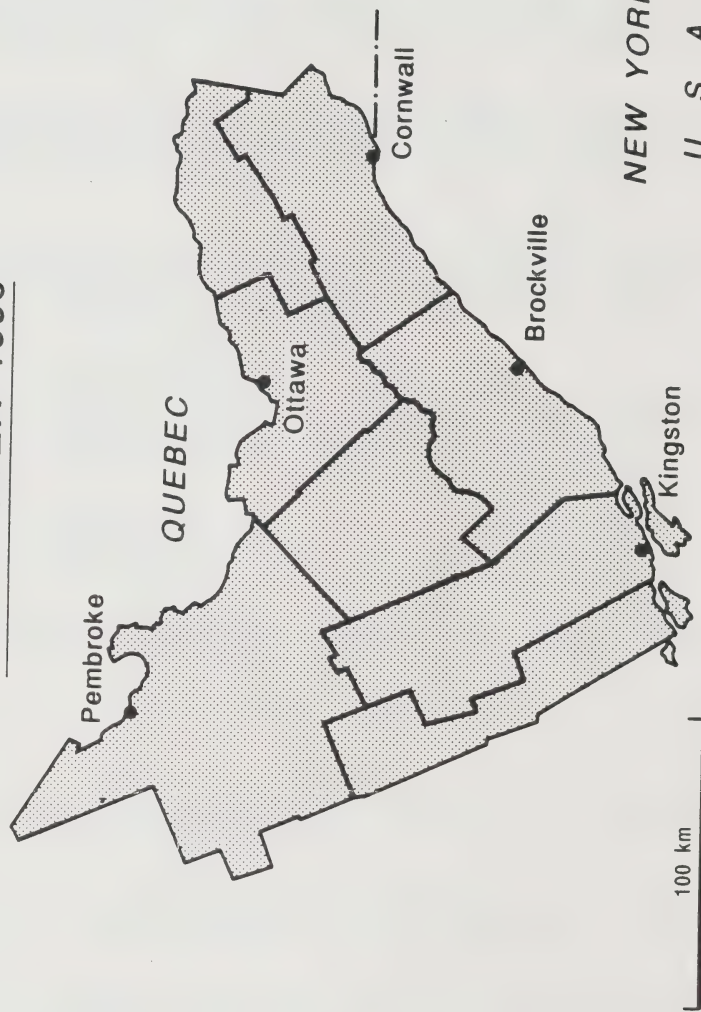
- The baits will not be dropped near farm buildings, residential areas or schools.
- By eating the bait -- a cube of chicken-scented beef tallow containing rabies vaccine -- a fox will be protected against rabies.
- The baits must be left on the ground for foxes to find and eat. These baits are clearly labelled "Rabies Vaccine - DO NOT EAT." If you should find a bait, please leave it alone.
- The 1990 bait program will cover the counties of Frontenac (including Wolfe Island and Howe Island); Lanark, Leeds and Grenville; Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; and Prescott and Russell. The majority of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Renfrew County, and Lennox and Addington County (including Amherst Island) will be baited.
- In 1989, MNR began the first phase of the vaccination project by releasing fox-vaccine baits in the counties of Frontenac, Prescott and Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Lennox and Addington and western Renfrew.
- Follow-up tests showed that at least one-third of the foxes in the treated area were immunized against rabies.
- A core area of eastern Ontario, lying roughly along either side of Highway 16, has a strong, predictable rabies cycle that peaked in 1989 and has declined this year. This area will be included in the baiting program this year as baiting is most effective when rabies incidence in an area is low.
- Biologically, the vaccine is a strain of rabies virus. It has been carefully selected in the laboratory to stimulate a fox's immune system without causing the disease.
- The bait is designed for foxes. It will not harm other animals if eaten, but neither will it protect them from rabies. Pets should be properly vaccinated each year by a veterinarian.
- The vaccine is considered safe for use in this program. But as with any vaccine, there is a risk that a very small percentage of people might have an adverse reaction.
- MNR is advising the public to leave the baits alone, and recommends anyone who accidentally eats the bait or vaccine to consult their physician immediately regarding the need for treatment.

rural rabies - 3

- As a precaution against contracting the disease, people should not pet strange animals, and should avoid any sick or dead animal, whether wild or domestic.
- Symptoms of rabies will appear in humans two weeks to one year after contacting a rabid animal. The first symptoms in humans are usually itching and soreness in the area of the original bite. However, rabies in humans can be prevented if vaccine shots are given immediately after a bite exposure.
- Symptoms will appear in foxes 30 days to six months after contracting the disease. Initial symptoms include lack of fear of humans, dogs or other animals, partial paralysis of the limbs, and extreme excitability.
- Rabies first appeared in Ontario in 1954 and reached southern Ontario in 1956. Biologists believe the disease was transferred to Ontario animals through contact between arctic foxes and red foxes on the Hudson and James Bay coasts. Rabies has persisted in the Arctic for centuries, and today it is still a problem in the North.
- MNR will conduct a public awareness campaign throughout the rabies vaccination area to inform the public about the baiting program and to ask people not to handle the baits.
- For more information on the wildlife rabies control program, call MNR's Rabies Research Unit collect at: (416) 832-7110.

AREA TO BE COVERED WITH RABIES BAITS

IN OCTOBER 1990





Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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November 22, 1990

ONTARIO RANGERS NEW NAME FOR MNR TEEN SUMMER PROGRAM

Ontario Rangers is the new name of MNR's "learn and earn" summer employment program for teenagers. Ministry staff hope the change, from Junior Rangers, will encourage active students interested in the natural environment to apply for the summer 1991 session.

"Ontario Rangers learn about and practise conservation in Ontario's parks, forests, lakes and rivers," Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman said. "It's an excellent opportunity to work and live in some of Ontario's most beautiful natural surroundings."

The Ontario Ranger program, now partially funded by the Environmental Youth Corps, has run for 45 years. It offers young people a chance to learn about the natural environment during eight weeks of employment.

Participants live in camps and work five-and-a-half days a week, clearing hiking trails and portages, keeping parks clean, planting tree seedlings, constructing buildings and boat ramps, and much more. In the process, they learn first-hand about fish, wildlife, parks, water, land and forest management, and also get to know colleagues from all over the province.

In a survey of the students involved in last year's program, 71 per cent were in favor of the name change. They felt the old name was somewhat juvenile. The students are 16 to 17 years old.

Close to 900 young men and women participate every year. Camps are segregated by gender and usually have 24 to 36 Rangers in each. Two camps, one male and one female, are bilingual (French and English).

Ontario Rangers receive free food and lodging, and are paid \$26.49 per day, a figure which is currently under review. Applicants must be students 17 years of age by December of the year they wish to participate, but not 18 by July of that year. All applicants must be in good health.

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Ontario Rangers - 2

Applications for the Ontario Ranger program are available from Room 4502, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, or by calling collect (416) 965-1258. MNR district offices and high school guidance counsellors can also provide applications.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Peter Meerveld
Human Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1258

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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November 23, 1990

MNR ANNOUNCES HUNTING LICENCE FEE INCREASES

Fees for hunting licences in Ontario will increase by an average of five per cent on January 1, 1991 to reflect increases in the cost of managing the province's wildlife resources.

"Licence fees are traditionally adjusted every one or two years to allow for cost increases and to ensure we are not undervaluing our resources in Ontario," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The cost of a resident small game licence will be \$6.50, up from \$6.25. The resident deer licence fee will be \$20.25, up from \$19.25, and a resident moose licence fee will be \$26.50, up from \$25.25.

The cost of non-resident deer and bear licences will be \$105 each, up from \$100 apiece, while the cost of a non-resident moose licence will be \$231, up from \$220.

Fees for Ontario sport fishing licences, which are usually adjusted at the same time as hunting licence fees, will remain at 1990 levels while MNR undertakes a review of the province's fishing licence fees.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Harcus
Wildlife Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756





Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

news release
communiqué

Le 23 novembre 1990

**LE MRN ANNONCE UNE AUGMENTATION
DES DROITS DES PERMIS DE CHASSE**

Les droits des permis de chasse en Ontario augmenteront d'environ cinq pour cent le 1^{er} janvier 1991 pour tenir compte de la hausse des coûts de gestion des ressources fauniques de la province.

«Ces droits sont ajustés tous les ans ou tous les deux ans pour refléter l'augmentation des coûts et pour s'assurer que nous ne sous-estimons pas nos ressources ontariennes», a déclaré M. Bud Wildman, ministre des Richesses naturelles.

Un permis de résident pour la chasse au petit gibier coûtera maintenant 6,50 \$ (6,25 \$ auparavant); un permis de résident pour la chasse au chevreuil coûtera 20,25 \$ (19,25 \$ auparavant); et un permis de résident pour la chasse à l'orignal coûtera 26,50 \$ (25,25 \$ auparavant).

Les droits du permis de non-résident pour la chasse au chevreuil et la chasse à l'ours seront maintenant de 105 \$ chacun (100 \$ auparavant) tandis que les droits du permis de non-résident pour la chasse à l'orignal passeront de 220 \$ à 231 \$.

Les droits des permis de pêche sportive en Ontario, généralement ajustés en même temps que ceux des permis de chasse, ne seront pas modifiés en 1991 en attendant les résultats d'une étude du MRN visant à réviser ces droits à l'échelle de la province.

- 30 -

EDITOR'S NOTE: English version available.

SOURCES :

John Marcus
Direction de la faune
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Francine Poirier
Direction des services
de communications
TORONTO (416) 963-3170



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

**news release
communiqué**

November 23, 1990

CANADIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP TREE LIT IN LAFAYETTE SQUARE

The Canadian-American Friendship Tree, a symbol of the many friendships and partnerships Ontario shares with western New York, was lit today in a ceremony at Lafayette Square in downtown Buffalo.

"This gift from the people of Ontario to the people of Buffalo and western New York has become an exciting holiday season tradition between our two countries," said Peter Kormos, MPP for Welland-Thorold and Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Mr. Kormos participated in today's ceremony with Buffalo Mayor James Griffin and Fort Erie Mayor John Teal.

The young people of Buffalo and western New York play a significant role in the event. The tree's weatherproof ornaments -- some depicting peace signs, a handshake, and Canadian and U.S. flags intertwined -- were all prepared by local schoolchildren.

This is the sixth year that Ontario has donated a friendship tree to the people of Buffalo. This year's tree, a 15-metre (50-foot) white spruce from the Haliburton area, was cut, transported and erected by Weller Tree Service.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

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communiqué

Le 23 novembre 1990

**L'ARBRE DE L'AMITIÉ CANADO-AMÉRICAIN
A ÉTÉ ALLUMÉ AU LAFAYETTE SQUARE**

L'arbre de l'amitié canado-américain, un symbole du respect et de la collaboration qui caractérisent les relations entre l'Ontario et la région de Western New York, a été allumé aujourd'hui lors d'une cérémonie qui a eu lieu au Lafayette Square, dans le centre-ville de Buffalo.

«Cet arbre est un cadeau de la province de l'Ontario à la population de Buffalo et de Western New York; il est devenu une importante tradition des Fêtes entre les deux pays», a déclaré M. Peter Kormos, député de Welland-Thorold et ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce. M. Kormos a participé aujourd'hui à cette cérémonie, en compagnie du maire de Buffalo, M. James Griffin, et du maire de Fort Erie, M. John Teal.

Les jeunes gens de Buffalo et de la région de Western New York jouent un rôle important lors de cet événement. Par exemple, les décorations de l'arbre, à l'épreuve des intempéries, ont toutes été fabriquées par des élèves fréquentant les écoles de la région. Ces décorations comprennent des signes de paix, une poignée de mains, les drapeaux canadien et américain entrelacés, etc.

Il y a maintenant six ans que l'Ontario fait don d'un arbre de l'amitié aux résidents de Buffalo. L'arbre de cette année est une épinette blanche de 15 mètres (50 pieds) de haut qui a été récoltée dans la région d'Haliburton. Il a été coupé, transporté et érigé par Weller Tree Service.

- 30 -

EDITOR'S NOTE: English version available.

SOURCES :

Sarah Minas
Direction des services
de communications
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

Francine Poirier
Direction des services
de communications
TORONTO (416) 963-3170



December 18, 1990

SURVEY GIVES PUBLIC A CHANCE TO INFLUENCE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Anglers, fisheries managers, tourist outfitters, business people and recreational planners will all benefit from a survey of sport fishing in Ontario to be carried out in early 1991.

"The survey will provide vital planning information and will be an opportunity for the public to help contribute to the management of Ontario's fisheries resource," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The survey, conducted every five years in conjunction with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, provides MNR resource managers and others with an up-to-date, comprehensive picture of the province's sport fishery.

The survey asks questions on angler activity, angler concerns and future plans, views on resource management issues, and many other topics including angler spending and boat ownership.

During the survey, more than 30,000 people will be contacted by telephone. Survey staff hope to get more than 20,000 people who will take part in the survey, including an estimated 15,000 Ontario resident and non-resident anglers who fished last year.

Anglers active last year will be asked to fill in a questionnaire. Everyone else, including anglers who didn't fish last year, residents who fished outside Ontario last year, and non-anglers, will be asked to take part in the survey by answering several questions over the telephone. These will include reasons for not fishing, whether participants plan to fish in the future and their views about activities which affect the fisheries resources. The survey results, which represent every region in the province, will be available in late 1991.

"Angler and non-angler support is necessary to make the survey results meaningful," Mr. Wildman said.

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survey - 2

Survey managers ask that anglers who are contacted please complete the questionnaires and return them as quickly as possible in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelopes provided. Information on individual questionnaires will be kept confidential.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Douglass Legg
Fisheries Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7885

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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May 7, 1991

MINISTER ANNOUNCES FIVE-POINT PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced a comprehensive, five-point sustainable forestry program to change the direction of forest management in Ontario.

While describing the new directions in forest management, Mr. Wildman also announced a 20-per-cent reduction this spring in aerial herbicide spraying, which protects young trees from competing vegetation.

"Traditionally, this province's forestry programs have focused mainly on the production of timber," said Mr. Wildman. "Sustainable forestry is management that ensures the long-term health of forest ecosystems. It means managing for all forest values, protecting old-growth ecosystems, reducing our dependence on chemical herbicides, involving the public in decisions, and enhancing our forests in the south."

The Ministry of Natural Resources will spend \$10 million in 1991 on new initiatives that will accelerate its progress toward sustainable forestry.

The sustainable forestry program -- to which the government committed itself in its November Throne Speech -- includes five new initiatives to be launched this year.

- A three-person working group will co-ordinate the development of a first-of-its-kind comprehensive forest policy framework through a broad consultation process beginning in the fall of 1992.
- An old-growth ecosystem conservation strategy will be developed, based on input from the scientific community, interest groups and the public.
- Community forest pilot projects will be set up in four communities to test options for increasing local involvement in forestry.
- The province's silvicultural program will be enhanced through an enlarged research program and the field testing of alternatives to current practices, including options to reduce the use of chemical herbicides.

more...

sustainable forestry - 2

- A private woodlands strategy will be introduced to promote sustainable forestry on private lands, mainly in southern Ontario.

The five-point program will mark a change in the ministry's approach to forestry. The new approach will focus on information gathering and public participation, and will emphasize improving knowledge about forest ecosystems and alternative silviculture systems, increased research and sharing this information with the public.

This spring, the ministry will spray about 80,000 hectares of forest with chemical herbicides, 20 per cent less than last year. The new sustainable forestry program recognizes the need to systematically reduce dependence on chemical herbicides by using environmentally-sensitive alternatives as they become available.

Last month, Mr. Wildman named a three-person task force to conduct an independent audit of the boreal forest in Northern Ontario, to determine the success rate of both natural and artificial regeneration on harvested areas.

"The touchstone of the sustainable forestry initiative is the development of the forest policy framework," Mr. Wildman said. "Ontarians from all walks of life are demanding the opportunity to help establish forest policy. We must increase community involvement and empowerment through new forms of partnerships."

Changes to forest management that emphasize social, environmental and other benefits, including timber, will be phased in to avoid economic dislocation.

"We must protect and enhance our natural environment, while nurturing a competitive forest products industry that will provide long-term employment," Mr. Wildman said.

Mr. Wildman made his announcement during National Forest Week, May 5 to 11.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jim Park
Forest Resources Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6607

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

Government of Ontario
news release
communiqué

May 15, 1991

MEDIA ADVISORY

Opening of Provincial Parks Season

The Ministry of Natural Resources is reminding campers that a ban on alcohol is in effect at selected provincial parks across southern Ontario until May 20.

"Providing a quiet, enjoyable start to the camping season for families and other visitors by banning alcohol in selected parks is a practice that has proven beneficial in recent years," Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman said.

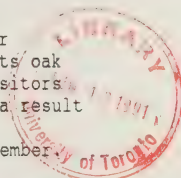
This year, some provincial parks will have new facilities. For example, Pinery Provincial Park on southern Lake Huron, noted for its oak savanna forest and sandy beaches, will open the doors of its new visitors' centre this summer. In addition, many parks have been upgraded as a result of capital projects funded under the first phase of the Ontario government's \$700-million anti-recession program announced last December.

Last year a recycling program was introduced in 26 parks in an effort to reduce waste. The response of park visitors to the program was outstanding, and this year the initiative has been expanded to 65 parks.

Later in the season, visitors will be able to take part in special events during Parks Day on Sunday, July 21, a day set aside to celebrate the designation of natural areas for recreation and the protection of natural heritage features.

Campers should also know that they can reserve a campsite for most parks with a telephone call. Payment of the camping and reservation fee now are required in advance; Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

Information on parks facilities, fees and the campsite reservation service is contained in the 1991 Ontario Provincial Parks Guide, available at provincial parks, MNR district offices, Ontario Travel Information Centres and MNR's Public Information Centre, Room 1640, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto M7A 1W3, telephone (416) 965-3081. Collect calls are accepted.



Information about provincial parks is also available by calling the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation toll free numbers:

Canada and U.S.
English 1-800-268-3735
French 1-800-268-3736

Metro Toronto area
English 965-4008
French 965-3448

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf - T.D.D. (416) 965-6027.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bruce van Staalduijn
Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1245

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

PROVINCIAL PARKS WITH AN ALCOHOL BAN (May 10 to 20):

Awenda, Balsam Lake, Bass Lake, Craigleith, Darlington, Earl Rowe, Emily, Fitzroy, Ipperwash, Long Point, MacGregor Point, McRae Point, Pinery, Point Farms, Port Burwell, Presqu'île, Rideau River, Rock Point, Rondeau, Sandbanks, Sauble Falls, Serpent Mounds, Sibbald Point, Six Mile Lake, Turkey Point, Wheatley.



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May 22, 1991

NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER ANNOUNCES 1991 FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Ontario's 38 conservation authorities will receive a total of \$48.7 million in funding for 1991, Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman announced today.

"Conservation authorities are front-line organizations that play a key role in managing Ontario's water and land, and in providing recreational opportunities across much of the province," Mr. Wildman said. "The 1991 allocation will enable the authorities to continue to work in the most efficient and effective way possible."

Of the total, \$26.9 million is allocated to the authorities' operating budgets, covering the costs of administration and operations. The remaining \$21.8 million is allocated to their capital budgets, covering costs of flood damage reduction and erosion control projects, as well as engineering and planning studies.

This funding is in addition to a \$2.8-million allocation already approved for capital projects under the province's anti-recession program earlier this year.

Conservation authorities are primarily responsible for flood and erosion control in the province's watersheds -- the land drained by rivers or streams and their tributaries. With a jurisdiction covering more than 100,000 square kilometres, conservation authorities serve 90 per cent of the population of Ontario.

Funding for the conservation authorities program is shared by the province and member municipalities.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phyllis Miller
Lands and Waters Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-6285

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756





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May 22, 1991

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES IN CENTRAL ONTARIO RECEIVE \$24.1 MILLION IN PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR 1991

A \$1.6-million grant from the province will help the Halton Region Conservation Authority continue a channelization project that will provide flood protection to several residential areas in the City of Burlington.

The channelization of the Hager and Rambo creeks is being undertaken in conjunction with the construction of Highway 403 by the Ministry of Transportation.

Halton Region is one of 12 conservation authorities in central Ontario to receive a combined total of \$24.1 million for 1991 from the Ministry of Natural Resources. The funding is part of an over-all total of \$48.7-million in 1991 provincial grants to the 38 conservation authorities in Ontario.

"Conservation authorities are front-line organizations that play a key role in managing Ontario's water and land, and in providing recreational opportunities across much of the province," Mr. Wildman said. "The 1991 allocation will enable the authorities to continue to work in the most efficient and effective way possible."

Of the total, \$13.7 million will be allocated to the authorities' operating budgets, covering the costs of administration and operations. The remaining \$10.4 million will be allocated to their capital budgets, covering costs for flood damage reduction and erosion control projects, as well as engineering and planning studies.

In addition, \$973,312 in grants under the province's anti-recession program already have been approved earlier this year for 13 capital projects within seven central Ontario conservation authorities.

A total of \$784,500 will be allocated to the Grand River Conservation Authority to complete the final phase of the Brantford Flood Control project. The project will provide flood protection to 828 people living within flood-prone areas along the Grand River.

more...

Conservation authorities are primarily responsible for flood and erosion control in the province's watersheds -- the land drained by rivers or streams and their tributaries. With a jurisdiction covering more than 100,000 square kilometres, conservation authorities serve 90 per cent of the population of Ontario.

Funding for the conservation authorities program is shared by the province and member municipalities. Total provincial allocations for this year are as follows:

Central Lake Ontario C.A.	\$ 800,389
Credit Valley C.A.	1,956,731
Ganaraska Region C.A.	474,940
Grand River C.A.	5,812,810
Halton Region C.A.	3,207,221
Hamilton Region C.A.	1,216,946
Kawartha Region C.A.	369,497
Lake Simcoe Region C.A.	1,098,355
Metro Toronto and Region C.A.	6,431,226
Niagara Peninsula C.A.	1,343,227
Nottawasaga Valley C.A.	832,961
Otonabee Region C.A.	584,607

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Peterkin

Regional Conservation Authorities Program Co-ordinator

AURORA (416) 841-9316



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Ministry of Natural Resources
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communiqué**

May 22, 1991

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO RECEIVE \$13.3 MILLION IN PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR 1991

The Ministry of Natural Resources will allocate \$13.3 million for 1991 to the 11 conservation authorities in southwestern Ontario.

"Conservation authorities are front-line organizations that play a key role in managing Ontario's water and land, and in providing recreational opportunities across much of the province," Mr. Wildman said. "The 1991 allocation will enable the authorities to continue to work in the most efficient and effective way possible."

Of the total, \$6.9 million will be allocated to the authorities' operating budgets, covering the costs of administration and operations. The remaining \$6.4 million will be allocated to their capital budgets, covering costs for flood damage reduction and erosion control projects as well as engineering and planning studies.

The funding is part of an over-all total of \$48.7 million in 1991 provincial grants to Ontario's 38 conservation authorities. In addition, grants totalling \$803,710 already have been approved earlier this year under the province's anti-recession program for 24 capital projects in eight southwestern Ontario conservation authorities.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority will receive a \$700,000 grant to assist the County of Lambton and Ministry of Transportation in reconstruction of the Branton Bridge, located in Sombra Township. This project will enable the bridge to be used during times when the McKeough Floodway diversion channel is being operated by the conservation authority.

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority will receive a grant of \$104,500 for construction of flood protection works along the Thames River in the Broughdale area of the City of London. The cost of the project is \$225,000. When completed, flood protection will be provided to some 156 homes situated in a flood hazard area.

more...

Conservation authorities are primarily responsible for flood and erosion control in the province's watersheds -- the land drained by rivers or streams and their tributaries. With a jurisdiction covering more than 100,000 square kilometres, conservation authorities serve 90 per cent of the population of Ontario.

Funding for the conservation authorities program is shared by the province and member municipalities. Total provincial allocations for this year are as follows:

Ausable-Bayfield C.A.	\$	1,180,876
Catfish Creek C.A.		478,487
Essex Region C.A.		1,176,750
Grey-Sauble C.A.		1,029,960
Kettle Creek C.A.		343,001
Long Point C.A.		639,113
Lower Thames River C.A.		2,942,261
Maitland Valley C.A.		966,389
Saugeen Valley C.A.		1,172,494
St. Clair Region C.A.		1,840,659
Upper Thames River C.A.		1,615,489

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rob Messervey
Regional Conservation Authorities Program Co-ordinator
LONDON (519) 661-2736



May 22, 1991

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES IN EASTERN ONTARIO RECEIVE \$6.6 MILLION IN PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR 1991

A \$387,800 grant from the province will help the Raisin Region Conservation Authority initiate land acquisition and design engineering for phase two of the Fly Creek flood-reduction project in the City of Cornwall.

This is the first component of a multi-year channel improvement project that will provide flood damage reduction and local drainage improvements to residential areas along Fly Creek.

Raisin Region is one of 10 conservation authorities in eastern Ontario to receive grants from the Ministry of Natural Resources totalling \$6.6 million for 1991. The funding is part of an over-all total of \$48.7 million in 1991 provincial grants to Ontario's 38 conservation authorities.

"Conservation authorities are front-line organizations that play a key role in managing Ontario's water and land, and in providing recreational opportunities across much of the province," Mr. Wildman said. "The 1991 allocation will enable the authorities to continue to work in the most efficient and effective way possible."

Of the total, \$4.1 million will be allocated to the authorities' operating budgets, covering costs of administration and day-to-day operations. The remaining \$2.5 million will be allocated to their capital budgets, covering costs for flood damage reduction and erosion control projects as well as engineering and planning studies.

This funding is in addition to \$930,150 in provincial anti-recession program grants approved earlier this year for 16 capital projects in six eastern Ontario conservation authorities.

The Crowe Valley and Lower Trent River conservation authorities will receive grants totalling \$42,500 to purchase computer hardware and communications equipment for completion of a new, shared flood forecast centre. The Cataraqui Region, Lower Trent and Rideau Valley authorities received grants totalling \$84,000 to start development of watershed plans for their respective areas of jurisdiction.

more...

Conservation authorities are primarily responsible for flood and erosion control in the province's watersheds -- the land drained by rivers or streams and their tributaries. With a jurisdiction covering more than 100,000 square kilometres, conservation authorities serve 90 per cent of the population of Ontario.

Funding for the conservation authorities program is shared by the province and member municipalities. Total provincial allocations for this year are as follows:

Cataraqui Region C.A.	\$	779,663
Crowe Valley C.A.		364,681
Lower Trent Region C.A.		634,462
Mississippi Valley C.A.		710,301
Moir River C.A.		805,643
Napanee Region C.A.		322,446
Prince Edward Region C.A.		344,253
Raisin Region C.A.		1,037,509
Rideau Valley C.A.		995,379
South Nation River C.A.		606,603

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Susan Bryson
Regional Conservation Authorities Program Co-ordinator
KEMPTVILLE (613) 258-8400



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May 22, 1991

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES IN NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO RECEIVE \$2 MILLION IN PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR 1991

The Ministry of Natural Resources will allocate more than \$2 million for 1991 to the Nickel District, North Bay-Mattawa and Sault Ste. Marie conservation authorities in northeastern Ontario.

"Conservation authorities are front-line organizations that play a key role in managing Ontario's water and land, and in providing recreational opportunities across much of the province," Mr. Wildman said. "The 1991 allocation will enable the authorities to continue to work in the most efficient and effective way possible."

Of the total, \$1 million will be allocated to the authorities' operating budgets, covering costs for administration and operations. The remaining \$1 million will be allocated to their capital budgets, covering costs of flood damage reduction and erosion control projects, as well as engineering and planning studies.

The funding is part of an over-all total of \$48.7 million in 1991 provincial grants to Ontario's 38 conservation authorities. In addition, the Nickel District will receive a grant of \$31,500 for capital development at Lake Laurentian Conservation Area, approved earlier this year under the province's anti-recession program.

Grants totalling \$49,040 will be used to acquire flow monitoring equipment, and computer hardware and software, to assist in upgrading the conservation authorities' flood forecasting capabilities.

A grant of \$425,000 will be provided to the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority to continue stabilizing the banks of Chippawa Creek in the City of North Bay. This project will help prevent the collapse of the streambank and protect adjacent properties.

Conservation authorities are primarily responsible for flood and erosion control in the province's watersheds -- the land drained by rivers or streams and their tributaries. With a jurisdiction covering more than 100,000 square kilometres, conservation authorities serve 90 per cent of the population of Ontario.

northeastern Ontario - 2

Funding for the conservation authorities program is shared by the province and member municipalities. Total provincial allocations for this year are as follows:

Nickel District C.A.	\$	576,749
North Bay-Mattawa C.A.		1,167,109
Sault Ste. Marie C.A.		276,672

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dave Colvin
Regional Conservation Authorities Program Co-ordinator
SUDBURY (705) 675-4120



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May 22, 1991

MATTAGAMI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE \$1,117,434 IN PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR 1991

The Ministry of Natural Resources will allocate \$1,117,434 for 1991 to the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority.

"Conservation authorities are front-line organizations that play a key role in managing Ontario's water and land, and in providing recreational opportunities across much of the province," Mr. Wildman said. "The 1991 allocation will enable the authorities to continue to work in the most efficient and effective way possible."

Of the total, \$303,184 will be allocated to the authority's operating budget, covering the costs of administration and operations. The remaining \$814,250 will be allocated to its capital budget, covering costs of flood damage reduction and erosion control projects as well as engineering and planning studies.

The funding is part of an over-all total of \$48.7 million in 1991 provincial grants to Ontario's 38 conservation authorities, and is in addition to \$59,500 in funding from the province's anti-recession program approved for capital projects earlier this year.

Among the projects funded this year is the purchase of a computer to assist with the authority's flood forecasting program and a wetland inventory study.

Conservation authorities are primarily responsible for flood and erosion control in the province's watersheds -- the land drained by rivers or streams and their tributaries. With a jurisdiction covering more than 100,000 square kilometres, conservation authorities serve 90 per cent of the population of Ontario.

Funding for the conservation authorities program is shared by the province and member municipalities.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ben Legouffe
Regional Conservation Authorities Program Co-ordinator
TIMMINS (705) 267-7951



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May 22, 1991

LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE \$570,680 IN PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR 1991

The Ministry of Natural Resources will allocate \$570,680 for 1991 to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.

"Conservation authorities are front-line organizations that play a key role in managing Ontario's water and land, and in providing recreational opportunities across much of the province," Mr. Wildman said. "The 1991 allocation will enable the authorities to continue to work in the most efficient and effective way possible."

Of the total, \$418,497 will be allocated to the authority's operating budget, covering administration and operations. The remaining \$152,183 will be allocated to its capital budget, covering costs for flood damage reduction and erosion control projects, as well as engineering and planning studies.

The funding is part of an over-all total of \$48.7 million in 1991 provincial grants to Ontario's 38 conservation authorities.

In addition, grants totalling close to \$58,000 have already been approved for forest management and erosion control under the province's anti-recession program earlier this year.

In one project, the authority will receive close to \$60,000 to repair sections of the river bank along the Neebing/McIntyre Diversion Channel.

Conservation authorities are primarily responsible for flood and erosion control in the province's watersheds -- the land drained by rivers or streams and their tributaries. With a jurisdiction covering more than 100,000 square kilometres, conservation authorities serve 90 per cent of the population of Ontario.

Funding for the conservation authorities program is shared by the province and member municipalities.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dave Murray
Regional Conservation Authorities Program Co-ordinator
THUNDER BAY (807) 475-1470



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May 23, 1991

NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COUNCIL FOR TEMAGAMI

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced the creation of a new Comprehensive Planning Council for the Temagami area that will replace the existing Temagami Advisory Council.

"The new planning council will strengthen the role of local communities in the management of natural resources in the Temagami area," Mr. Wildman said. "Natural resources are the lifeblood of these communities and it is vital that local citizens play a stronger role in their management."

The Comprehensive Planning Council will have wider local representation than its predecessor and will include labor and mining interests as well as environmental, municipal, tourism, forestry and recreational representatives.

The new council will also have a more significant role to play in resource management planning than its predecessor. It will take a holistic approach to resource management planning and ensure that all planning for parks, tourism, timber harvesting, fisheries and wildlife is done at the same time.

The planning council's work in preparing a comprehensive plan for Temagami will be done with the active participation of other ministries, particularly the ministries of mines, tourism, and citizenship and culture.

Roman Brozowski, of Nipissing University College in North Bay, will be the chair of the new Comprehensive Planning Council. He has been the chair of the Temagami Advisory Council. He will provide important continuity between the Planning Council and the Temagami Advisory Council.

The Wendaban Stewardship Authority was also established today with the signing of an agreement between the province and the Teme-Augama Anishnabai. The Stewardship Authority will provide joint management of four townships of Temagami.

The planning council will manage the public consultation process for the development of a comprehensive plan for managing all resources in Temagami, excluding the area managed by the Stewardship Authority. The deadline of March 31, 1992 for the development of the comprehensive plan has been extended by up to two years to give the planning council sufficient time to complete its work on the plan.

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Comprehensive Planning Council: Roman Brozowski, chair; Nicol Seguin, Kathy Hakola, John Frey, Gary O'Connor, Nickie Plumstead, Ron Magee, Suzanne Gooderham, Bob Beach, Larry Jackson, George Lefebvre, Larry Wiwchar, and Ivor Horncastle

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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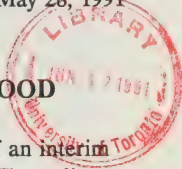
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CARON

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May 28, 1991



INTERIM ENFORCEMENT POLICY ANNOUNCED ON ABORIGINAL RIGHTS TO HUNT AND FISH FOR FOOD

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced details of an interim enforcement policy regarding aboriginal rights to hunt and fish in Ontario. The policy now is in effect.

"The province needed to develop an interim policy in order to reflect the guarantee of aboriginal rights in Section 35 of the Constitution and to respond to recent decisions by the Supreme Court of Canada that help define those rights," said Mr. Wildman, who is also Minister Responsible for Native Affairs. "One of the most significant Supreme Court rulings, the Sparrow decision of May 1990, says that aboriginal rights to fish for food for personal and community use take first priority after conservation and resource management concerns have been satisfied."

The interim policy applies to status Indian people who are fishing or hunting for food in the area that is covered by their treaty. In addition, the policy applies to status Indians who are hunting and fishing in the area where they have traditionally harvested. Where such areas are different from existing treaty areas or are not set out in treaties, the boundaries of such traditional areas will be clarified through negotiation.

The intent in developing the new interim enforcement policy is to clarify current government practice regarding aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food for personal and community use. Through the interim policy, the logic of the Sparrow decision is being applied to hunting wildlife for personal and community use, as well as to fishing for such use.

The Sparrow decision also says that the relationship between governments and aboriginal people should not be adversarial. To promote this non-adversarial climate, the Government of Ontario is prepared to negotiate agreements with aboriginal people regarding their aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food. The interim enforcement policy sets out the ground rules for negotiating arrangements with aboriginal people.

"The interim enforcement policy is consistent with the government's commitment to negotiate self-government arrangements with aboriginal people and its commitment to develop co-management agreements on natural resources," Mr. Wildman said.

interim policy - 2

The interim policy will minimize the number of instances where native people might be charged under such acts as the Game and Fish Act, the Fisheries Act and the Migratory Birds Convention Act. The new policy is interim because it is meant to be in place until it is replaced by negotiated agreements with aboriginal people, after consultation with First Nations and interested third parties.

Under the interim enforcement policy, status Indian people harvesting wildlife and fish for personal consumption and for social and ceremonial purposes will not be subject to enforcement procedures, except in certain circumstances. These include:

- hunting in an unsafe manner;
- taking wildlife and fish for commercial purposes, except where a specific, recognized right exists;
- taking wildlife and fish in a manner which puts conservation objectives at risk; and
- hunting and fishing on privately owned or occupied land, unless there is permission from the landowner.

The following activities may be considered as examples of activities that could put conservation objectives at risk:

- destruction or harmful alteration of fish or wildlife habitat;
- in certain circumstances, fishing in sanctuaries or waters that are closed at all times of the year, or hunting in waterfowl sanctuaries;
- the taking of rare, threatened or endangered species;
- the taking of wildlife while they are nursing their young.

In addition, the interim policy provides for status Indian people to barter game and fish in exchange for other game and fish within or among their communities.

The interim policy will also provide a framework for working with Métis and non-status Indian communities where harvesting wildlife and fish is integral to the lifestyle of the community. The provisions of the Game and Fish Act, the Fisheries Act and the Migratory Birds Convention Act will continue to apply to Métis and non-status Indian communities until agreements have been entered into with these communities. In addition, agreements will have to be in place before aboriginal people may hunt and fish in provincial parks, unless they already have such rights.

This policy will apply to the unique circumstances which exist with respect to the harvest of game and fish by the Algonquins of Golden Lake in Algonquin Provincial Park.

interim policy - 3

The Algonquins of Golden Lake have filed a substantial claim to a large part of the Ottawa Valley, including Algonquin Park. They have never been compensated for extinguishing their rights in the area they claim. Those unique circumstances have been recognized through the province's commitment to negotiate the land claim beginning June 15.

The commitment includes an agreement to negotiate an interim arrangement with the Algonquins of Golden Lake regarding the aboriginal right to hunt and fish for food in the area they claim. The agreement will include sub-agreements on deer and moose hunting and fishing that will specify seasons and areas for hunting and fishing, levels of harvest and measures to protect park values, ensure enforcement and conservation and protect public safety.

Agreement has been reached with the Algonquins on principles for hunting deer and moose within the context of the interim policy. Negotiations are under way for a fishing agreement, and other interested groups are being consulted on proposals for the interim agreement. Until there is agreement on principles in relation to fishing, fishing activities by the Algonquins of Golden Lake will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Across the province, allegations that a native person has violated the principles of conservation or public safety will continue to be reviewed through the normal screening process in the Ministry of Natural Resources, with the Deputy Minister deciding whether or not charges should be laid.

Before proceeding with charges, MNR will consult the Chief, or designate, of the affected First Nation to discuss concerns about harvesting of fish and wildlife. The appropriate aboriginal treaty and political organization will also be notified. The Attorney General may intervene in this screening process.

The Deputy Minister must give written approval to planned enforcement procedures into commercial harvesting by native people. When reviewing recommendations to lay charges regarding commercial fishing, the Deputy Minister will take into consideration whether or not there exists a right to harvest wildlife and fish for commercial purposes.

Aboriginal people and other interested groups in the province were consulted during the development of the interim policy. Many of the revisions suggested during consultation are now part of the interim policy.

interim policy - 4

Mr. Wildman also announced that new consultation committees are being set up immediately. A conservation committee, with representatives from the province and from aboriginal and treaty organizations, will meet quarterly to discuss decisions to proceed with charges against native persons. Regional conservation committees in MNR's administrative regions will meet to discuss activities that might put conservation objectives at risk.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756
HOME (416) 489-6198



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Government
Publications

June 3, 1991

MINISTER ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS FOR LAC LA CROIX COMMUNITY

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced initiatives to address historic grievances and to improve the economic and social conditions for the Lac La Croix First Nation, who reside on the edge of Quetico Provincial Park.

Mr. Wildman also confirmed the Ontario government's commitment to full public consultation on any changes to Quetico Provincial Park regulations.

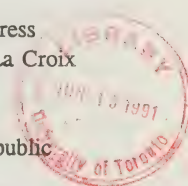
In addition, the Minister appointed a special representative to discuss with the First Nation land claim issues, the exercise of its aboriginal and treaty rights to hunt and fish for food for personal and community use and trap in traditional areas, and some economic and social matters.

Mr. Wildman also noted that the Lac La Croix First Nation was not consulted by the Ontario government when Quetico Provincial Park was created in 1913 and this has led to a number of injustices. He indicated that successive Ontario governments have failed to recognize the aboriginal and treaty rights of the Lac La Croix First Nation.

"We cannot undo those injustices. We can, however, recognize that the traditional activities of this First Nation have been interfered with," Mr. Wildman said. "I want to say very directly and personally that our government is prepared to make a public apology to the Lac La Croix First Nation for the lack of respect that has been shown for its people and for its rights. We are committed to honoring the rights of the First Nation."

The chief and several elders from the Lac La Croix First Nation were in the Legislature when the Minister made his announcement.

The initiatives to provide much-needed economic stimulus for Lac La Croix community include providing, on an interim basis through an exemption order under the Environmental Assessment Act, motorboat access for guiding purposes to three additional lakes in Quetico Park -- Cirrus, Jean and Conk lakes. The motors for these boats will have a maximum of 10 horsepower.



"I recognize that there is considerable, and legitimate, public interest in any changes to Quetico Park, particularly changes that deal with motorized access," Mr. Wildman said. "Therefore, I am committed to a program of full public consultation on all the elements of the proposal by the Lac La Croix community for more access to the park."

Public consultation will be conducted in accordance with the Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Guidelines. The Minister will ask the Ontario Provincial Parks Council to review any proposed amendments to the Quetico park management plan. The public consultation process will examine the full proposal by the Lac La Croix community for motorboat access to six more lakes and two more aircraft landing sites and docks for guiding purposes. The process will include review of the interim access granted for three lakes. At present, the community has motorboat access to six lakes on the west side of the park and an aircraft landing site at Beaver House Lake. The Lac La Croix First Nation intends to participate in public consultation.

The ministry will provide \$72,000 to the community to buy its own canoes and motors and increase the benefits from its guiding activities. The community currently rents canoes and motors. MNR will also hire four members of the community to act as a fire protection crew for Quetico Park.

The Ontario special representative will be Lloyd Girman, a former deputy minister of the Ministry of Northern Development and Native Affairs with the Manitoba government.

A key issue to be resolved by Mr. Girman is the land claim of the First Nation. The claim involves an area referred to as Sturgeon Lake Indian Reserve 24 C which is adjacent to McKenzie Lake in Quetico Park. The area was surveyed for a reserve in 1877 and occupied by the Sturgeon Lake band until 1915 when the reserve was cancelled by Ontario.

The federal government will be invited to participate in the land claim discussions. However, the province is prepared to move quickly and negotiate matters that are within its jurisdiction.

The discussions between the special representative and the First Nation will also focus on improving housing and social services and the question of providing road access to the community. MNR is prepared to commit \$500,000 to the construction of a road or trail to the community. The road will be outside the boundaries of Quetico park.

The 250 members of the Lac La Croix First Nation live on an isolated reserve on the southwestern edge of Quetico Provincial Park, on the international boundary between Ontario and Minnesota. Employment is seasonal and restricted because of the isolation of the area. Guiding visitors in Quetico Park is one of the few economic opportunities for the community.

"For nearly 90 years, this First Nation has demanded that the province honor its rights and provide it with more meaningful economic opportunities," Mr. Wildman said. "Until now, successive provincial governments, and also the federal government, have not responded positively."

Discussions with the First Nation will explore mechanisms to allow it to exercise the aboriginal and treaty rights guaranteed by Section 35 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court of Canada, in several recent judgments, has helped clarify how aboriginal and treaty rights are to be respected.

The Lac La Croix First Nation signed Treaty 3 in 1873. The treaty guaranteed that the First Nation can exercise its pursuits of hunting and gathering in its traditional area, which includes what is now Quetico Park, subject to some conditions -- which include non-native settlements, lumbering, mining and other land uses. It was not contemplated in 1873 that the idea of other uses would also mean establishing a provincial park like Quetico.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Steve Toole
Manager, Native Operations
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 942-5238

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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June 5, 1991

ALGONQUIN PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW EMPHASIZES PROTECTION AND RECREATION

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today released a report on the future management of Algonquin Park which emphasizes protection of the park's natural and cultural features and provision of recreation opportunities, while enhancing its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the region.

The document sets out Mr. Wildman's responses to 117 recommendations by the Provincial Parks Council on the Algonquin Provincial Park Management Plan.

"My responses to the council's recommendations demonstrate this government's commitment to conserving the natural and cultural legacy of the park for all Ontarians," Mr. Wildman said. The Parks Council recommendations were made following a public review of the plan conducted in 1989. The recommendations will form the basis for a revision of the plan, to be completed by the spring of 1992.

"The Provincial Parks Council has done an excellent job of reviewing the complex issues of park management, and I have accepted the majority of its recommendations," Mr. Wildman said.

The council's recommendations concern all aspects of the park and its management. However, since the council completed its work in 1990, the review does not deal with the question of the Algonquins of Golden Lake exercising their aboriginal right to hunt and fish in the area they claim as their traditional land, which includes Algonquin Park.

The province is committed to begin negotiations on the Algonquin's land claim by June 15. The commitment includes an agreement to negotiate interim arrangements with the Algonquins of Golden Lake regarding their aboriginal right to hunt and fish for food in the area they claim. The arrangement will include sub-agreements for deer and moose hunting and fishing that will specify seasons and areas for hunting and fishing, levels of harvest and measures to protect park values, ensure enforcement and conservation and protect public safety.

Other interested groups are being consulted on proposals for these interim agreements. Until there is agreement on the principles, fishing activities by the Algonquins of Golden Lake will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Parks Council recommendations as endorsed or amended by Mr. Wildman include the following:

- Changing the Algonquin Park Goal statement to place more emphasis on protection and recreation objectives, while continuing MNR's commitment to have the park contribute to the economic life of the region.

- Continued timber management and harvesting by the Algonquin Forestry Authority within the recreation/utilization zone of the park. Priority will be placed on maintaining a healthy forest that provides wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. A yield of wood products for the region's economy will also be maintained.
- Increasing the size of the nature reserve system in the park to 41,000 hectares from 31,000 hectares.
- Banning of new roads in nature reserves within the park.
- Undertaking a study on the establishment of a wilderness zone for the east side of the park, to be completed by December 31, 1993.
- Investigating alternatives to the use of herbicides for silvicultural purposes in the park.
- Phasing out hunt camps in Clyde and Bruton Townships and the McRae Addition over the next 19 years.
- Developing three new hiking trails.
- Banning waterskiing and related activities on all Algonquin Park lakes and waters as of January 1, 1993.
- Limiting boat horsepower on lakes where leases are held which currently allow unlimited horsepower to 20 horsepower as of January 1, 1993 except for utilitarian purposes by youth camps, lodges and outfitters.
- Enhancing programs to teach outdoor skills to park users.
- Developing a marketing strategy for the park in co-operation with local tourist associations, businesses, and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

"Algonquin Park has been a vital part of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage, and will be a central focus in our celebration of the provincial parks centennial in 1993," Mr. Wildman said. "The review provides us with strong direction to enhance the enjoyment of Algonquin Park by Ontarians into the next century."

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EDITORS: Please note fact sheet is attached.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ernie Martelle
Park Superintendent
Algonquin Park
WHITNEY (613) 637-2780

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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June 19, 1991

MNR AND OPSEU REACH AGREEMENT ON UNCLASSIFIED JOB CONVERSIONS

The Ministry of Natural Resources will convert approximately 870 long-term unclassified jobs to permanent civil service positions as a result of an agreement signed with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU).

The conversions, effective immediately, affect positions of 43 weeks or more in duration which were formerly considered seasonal unclassified jobs by the ministry.

"I congratulate both parties for resolving this long-standing issue, and am pleased the agreement recognizes the valuable contribution that this group of dedicated employees makes to the ministry," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

"The agreement provides fairness and equity, and will maximize job security for staff involved. It is a sign of continuing improvement in relations between the ministry and the union."

Staff who have completed at least two seasons with MNR and are currently working in a position designated for conversion will be appointed to the civil service. Staff who have 52 weeks of current active service in a position designated for conversion will also be appointed. These workers will be assigned positions on the basis of their rights under the provincial government's collective agreement with OPSEU.

Staff joining the civil service as a result of this agreement will be credited with their seniority accrued since 1984.

In cases where no current staff members are eligible to be appointed under the agreement, or where positions are currently vacant, jobs will be staffed according to hiring procedures agreed to by the ministry and the union.

A joint committee, made up of an equal number of representatives of MNR and OPSEU, will be established to resolve any disputes that may arise involving the duration of a position or the length of an employee's service.



The agreement settles a grievance in which the union challenged MNR's employment practices involving long-term recurring contracts. The ministry has agreed to limit future seasonal contracts to less than 43 weeks, with a break of service of nine weeks in any 12-month period.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Roger Gordon
Human Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-3825

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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June 24, 1991

**IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES RELEASED, PLANNING STUDY
ANNOUNCED FOR THE GREATER TORONTO AREA PORTION
OF OAK RIDGES MORaine**

The province today released implementation guidelines to protect significant features and control development of the Oak Ridges Moraine within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

In addition, a two-year planning study that will lead to the development of a long-term strategy for the GTA portion of the Moraine is now under way. The guidelines are interim and will protect significant features of the Moraine and control development while the long-term strategy is developed.

"The implementation guidelines concentrate on protecting significant features and controlling development in the GTA portion of the Moraine because development pressures are more severe there than in other portions of the Moraine," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

As part of the guarantee to protect significant areas, Mr. Wildman announced that the province is fully committed to the plans of the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to purchase the James Walker property, a valuable forested area on the south slope of the Moraine and which is part of the headwaters of Duffins Creek.

The province will create two committees to undertake this work. A technical working committee will guide the planning study and development of a long-term strategy. A citizens' advisory committee will assist in the development of the long-term strategy and will consult the public on the strategy before it is finalized.

The guidelines strengthen the commitment the province made in July 1990 with the announcement of the Expression of Provincial Interest in the GTA portion of the Moraine. The guidelines set out eight key principles for determining if a proposed development may be allowed and clarify the province's role in land-use planning there.

The principles prohibit development in significant natural areas; restrict scattered development; encourage maintaining or enhancing ecological integrity; encourage landform conservation; encourage the protection and management of woodlands; prohibit unacceptable development in and around watercourses and lakes; restrict expansion of settlements onto highly permeable soils; and prohibit development that has unacceptable impact on groundwater resources.

"The Ministry of Natural Resources will work in co-operation with the ministries of Municipal Affairs and Environment to ensure that any development allowed on the Moraine is consistent with the guidelines," Mr. Wildman said. "The province will review development proposals and use its powers under the Planning Act to intervene where necessary."

The Moraine within the GTA is a rise of land north of Metropolitan Toronto that has significant natural features and scenic qualities. It contains the headwaters of 30 watercourses and major tributaries. Underground aquifers provide drinking water for 10 communities, including King City, Aurora and Stouffville. The GTA portion stretches 90 kilometres from the Peel area in the west to the eastern boundary of the region of Durham. The width varies from four to 24 kilometres.

A 13-member technical working committee will start immediately on the planning study that will lead to the development of a long-term strategy for the GTA portion of the Moraine. The strategy, to be ready in two years, will outline the natural systems and green corridors that will be protected, will identify levels of development acceptable for various parts of the Moraine, and areas where no development will be permitted. The committee will have representatives from the province, regional municipalities, local conservation authorities, interest and industry groups and the chair of the citizens' advisory committee.

The citizens' advisory committee will help the technical committee develop the long-term strategy, consult the public on the strategy before it is finalized; seek public input and comments on a future direction for the GTA portion of the Moraine; play an on-going role in providing public information on various studies that will be undertaken; gather public information on natural features of the Moraine; and investigate the feasibility of a community-based trail system for the area.

In areas of the Moraine outside the GTA, municipalities will be strongly encouraged by the province to adopt and apply the principles of the implementation guidelines.

"The Oak Ridges Moraine is a key feature of the natural environment in the Greater Toronto Area," Mr. Wildman said. "Public consultation will be one of the most important elements in ensuring that we develop a long-term strategy that works for everyone."

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

EDITORS: Please note fact sheet is available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tom Farrell/Fred Johnson
GTA Ministry of Natural Resources
MAPLE (416) 832-7252

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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July 5, 1991

ROMEO MALETTE FOREST NAMED FOREST OF THE YEAR BY MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Romeo Malette Forest, located on Crown land in northeastern Ontario 10 kilometres west of Timmins, is Ontario's Forest of the Year for 1991.

The Malette Forest is the first forest management agreement (FMA) forest to receive the honor. The forest extends over 64 townships and covers more than 6,000 square kilometres.

Gilles Bisson, MPP for Cochrane South, made the announcement today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman at a ceremony at the Malette Forest.

"The Malette Forest is an excellent example of sustainable forestry and a model of co-operation between the Ministry of Natural Resources, Malette Inc., and the local community," Mr. Wildman said. "It is proof that our resources can be managed on a sustainable basis while integrating environmental, economic, cultural and recreational values."

The Malette Forest has been an FMA forest since April 1, 1982, when MNR and Malette Inc. signed a 20-year agreement setting out the company's harvesting rights and regeneration responsibilities. Forest management agreements are evaluated and revised every five years.

The forest supports a wide range of recreational activities, such as caniping, hunting, cottaging and canoeing while sustaining healthy fish and wildlife populations. This is an important feature of the forest for residents of nearby Timmins.

More than 35 tourist operators within or adjacent to the forest benefit directly from the quality of the natural environment.

Malette Inc. is a major economic force in the Timmins area. The company is the main employer of local silvicultural workers; tree planting alone provides employment for more than 100 local workers on a seasonal basis.



forest of the year - 2

In 1989, the forest provided more than 530,000 cubic metres of wood, all of which is processed locally. Wood from the forest provides raw materials for Malette's sawmill and waferboard/particleboard plant in Timmins, as well as for the company's kraft (pulp) mill in Smooth Rock Falls. Seedlings used for reforestation are grown in Timmins by two local nurseries.

Malette Inc. is also known for efficiency and innovation. The company was able to profit from the excellent natural regeneration of poplar in the area by building the second waferboard plant in North America in 1972. The company's Timmins operation is also considered to be one of the most modern and efficient sawmills in Ontario.

MNR is working with Malette Inc. to implement the first computerized timber weigh-scale in Ontario. A tree-improvement project was also established in Denton Township in 1988 to monitor the performance of 150 genetically superior trees selected from across the Romeo Malette Forest.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bob Fleet
District Office
TIMMINS (705) 267-7951

Robert Naud
Aviation, Flood and Fire Management Centre
SAULT STE MARIE (705) 945-6625



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July 10, 1991

ONTARIO CELEBRATES PARKS DAY JULY 21

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today invited Ontarians to visit their favorite provincial park on Parks Day, Sunday, July 21.

In honor of Parks Day, which is a national event, day-use admission to provincial parks will be free.

"Ontario's provincial parks play a vital role in protecting our natural and cultural heritage, and in providing outstanding opportunities for recreation and education," said Mr. Wildman. "Parks Day encourages Ontario residents, like other Canadians across the country, to visit and enjoy the park of their choice."

On Parks Day, Ontario parks will be offering a wide variety of activities for visitors. The slogan for Parks Day is: "Canada's Parks -- A Public Trust, Society's Treasures."

"Park visits this year have already shown a significant increase over 1990," Mr. Wildman said. "Clearly, Ontarians value and enjoy their parks."

Ontario's provincial park system includes 261 parks, covering six million hectares of land and water. Last year the park system attracted almost eight million visitors.

The Provincial Parks Recycling Program has been significantly expanded this year as a result of the enthusiastic response of park visitors and staff. Over seventy parks across Ontario are now participating in a variety of activities to reduce, reuse and recycle waste as part of the ministry's commitment to contribute to provincial waste-diversion targets.

Mr. Wildman noted that continuing efforts are being made to enhance the recycling program. "I am pleased to announce the launch of a pilot Blue•Bag™ recycling project made possible through a partnership with First Brands (Canada) Corporation," he said. "Now it will be as easy to recycle on the campsite as it is at home."

Visitors at five provincial parks will be offered GLAD Blue•Bags™ to encourage sorting of recyclables from other waste. First Brands are providing the bags for this project through their GLAD TO HELP CANADA CLEAN UP program.

As part of a five-year, provincial-parks revitalization program, park facilities and services, such as water systems and comfort stations, have been upgraded, and many park facilities have been made accessible to people with disabilities.

Construction has begun on a new visitor centre for Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, east of Thunder Bay, and a new visitor centre in Algonquin Provincial Park is near completion. The centre will be opened in 1993, the year Ontario will celebrate its provincial parks centennial. Pinery Provincial Park's new centre is open, and the interpretive displays are being completed.

Parks Day is being observed by all provincial, territorial and federal agencies. The agencies administer a combined total of 33 million hectares of Canadian parkland.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gary Forma
Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1245

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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July 11, 1991

MNR APPROVES PROJECT TO PURCHASE JAMES WALKER PROPERTY

The Ministry of Natural Resources has approved the purchase of the James Walker Property by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA).

The 429-hectare Walker Property is located near Stouffville on the Oak Ridges Moraine. It is environmentally sensitive land that is part of the headwaters of Duffins Creek.

For 57 years, James Walker, a lawyer, with the help of his wife Olwen, a few staff and volunteers, planted more than two million trees to turn a barren wasteland into a forest three times the size of Toronto's High Park.

"This project is a major step forward for conservation in the Greater Toronto Area," said Larry O'Connor, MPP for Durham-York, on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman. "Mr. Walker planted deciduous and coniferous trees, creating an extensive area for wildlife and protecting the groundwater resources in this portion of the Oak Ridges Moraine."

The Walker Property is an example of an environmentally significant feature of the Oak Ridges Moraine which now is being protected under the new implementation guidelines announced by the government in June. The moraine, a sand and gravel ridge deposited by glaciers during the last ice age, is the source of many watercourses, including the eastern branches of the Humber, Don and Rouge rivers and Duffins Creek.

The Walker property is located north of the Glen Major Forest and Wildlife Area. It is adjacent to a 72-hectare parcel of land that Mr. Walker donated to the Ontario Heritage Foundation in 1978 which now is managed by the conservation authority.

"This purchase will place into public ownership a vital piece of property on the Oak Ridges Moraine," said John McGinnis, Chairman of the MTRCA. "The site has many important features, including a major linkage to the authority's future trail development network along the moraine and valley lands."

walker property - 2

The land is covered almost entirely by trees and is recognized by government and independent forestry experts as one of the best-managed forest operations in southern Ontario.

The MTRCA plans to carry on with existing land management and forestry practices. The area will be accessible to the public and available for leisurely recreational activities.

The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto has played a significant role in assisting the Conservation Authority to raise funds to acquire this important property. It is inviting private landowners to consider donating sensitive lands in the interest of conservation.

The estimated cost of the Walker Property project is \$4.8 million. The province has authorized the use of \$2.1 million of provincial funds to complete the purchase of the property.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Nancy Richter
Community Relations
Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
DOWNSVIEW (416) 661-6600 ext. 231

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



July 23, 1991

MINISTER RELEASES REPORT ON THE ADULT MOOSE VALIDATION TAG DRAW

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today released a report entitled *Review of the Adult Moose Validation Tag Draw*.

The report contains recommendations regarding some of the key issues identified by moose hunters during an intensive review of the adult moose validation tag draw system earlier this year. The report was prepared by Cochrane North MPP Len Wood, Parliamentary Assistant to Mr. Wildman.

"I am pleased with the tremendous amount of public participation in the review. Moose hunters participated in frank and open discussions. The views expressed at those meetings will assist us in developing a system that is more fully responsive to their needs," Mr. Wildman said.

"I want to thank all those who participated at the meetings and those who wrote to me," Mr. Wood said. "There was a great deal of interest in the issues concerning adult moose tags and a wide range of opinions on how those issues should be resolved."

The Review of the Adult Moose Validation Tag Draw report contains the following recommendations:

- A group application system should be introduced. This will assist in a better distribution of tags.
- Under certain circumstances, tags should be transferred.
- A policy should be developed regarding the issuing of a second tag in instances where a hunter might harvest a moose which is heavily infested with parasites.
- A feasibility study should be conducted on the concept of a hunting card. This card would make licence issuing easier and quicker, reduce draw application errors, and may serve to assure hunters of the fairness of the computer draw.
- Permanent strategies for communicating with hunters should be established.
- Depending on the outcome of pilot projects, special consideration should be given to mobility-impaired disabled hunters enabling them to hunt moose.

During the review, Mr. Wood also assessed the suitability of a proposed group application system. This system, which the ministry will introduce in 1992, will provide increased hunting opportunities for Ontario residents while sustaining the moose population.

Mr. Wood conducted meetings in 14 communities across the province between January and March of this year. More than 4,000 moose hunters attended these meetings and written submissions were received from more than 200.

The adult moose validation tag draw is a system in which hunters may apply for a tag which allows them to harvest either an adult cow or bull moose.

There are an estimated 120,000 moose in Ontario. Although there are more than 100,000 moose hunters in the province, the Ministry, in order to increase the moose population, has limited the number of tags for distribution in 1991 to just under 30,000.

Copies of *Review of the Adult Moose Validation Tag Draw* report may be obtained at no cost from district offices across the province or from MNR's Public Information Centre, Room 1640, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, M7A 1W3, telephone (416) 965-4251. Collect calls will be accepted.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Chuck Jane
Wildlife Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7641

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO(416) 965-2756



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July 31, 1991

MEDIA ADVISORY

MNR Seeks Nominees For Panel On Forest Policy Framework

As part of a commitment to sustainable forestry, the Minister of Natural Resources will appoint a three-member panel early this fall to develop a comprehensive forest policy framework for Ontario.

The ministry is now seeking nominees for the panel. The panel will consult widely to determine what Ontarians want from their forests and will consist of three members who are:

- knowledgeable on the subject of sustainable development;
- familiar with, or have experience in, integrated natural resource management;
- excellent communicators and experienced in public involvement processes;
- available for 12 to 18 months; the chair should be available half the time and the members should be available a third of the time;
- willing to travel extensively throughout Ontario;
- representative of Ontario's demographic makeup.

The initiative to develop a comprehensive forest policy framework is the first of its kind in Ontario. The framework will set out:

- long-term roles of the forest locally, provincially, nationally and globally;
- long-term objectives for sustaining Ontario's forests and forest-dependent industries and communities;
- management principles to guide the development of detailed forest policies and practices; and
- how the public can contribute to ongoing forest policy development and management.

Nominations for the panel will be accepted until September 6, 1991. The panel will submit its report on a comprehensive forest policy framework to the Minister of Natural Resources in September 1992.

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For more information on the policy framework or the nomination process for the panel, please contact:

Dan Cooligan
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 946-2981



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news release communiqué

August 8, 1991

MINISTRIES TO PROVIDE FUNDING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO HELP SALVAGE TIMBER FROM BLOWDOWN IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Two provincial ministries will provide \$750,000 in funding for forest access roads and other assistance to help operations begin immediately to salvage timber knocked down by one of the largest forest blowdowns in Ontario history.

A severe windstorm July 18 blew down trees over a 150,000-hectare area north of Kenora. About five million cubic metres of timber, mainly jack pine, was levelled in the storm. Most of the harvesting rights in the area belong to Boise Cascade. The company's Kenora mill uses about 700,000 cubic metres of timber a year, so the storm damage represents about a seven-year wood supply for a mill of this size.

"This is a serious natural disaster and the province must get involved to ensure that as much timber as possible is salvaged," Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman said. "MNR will provide \$240,000 in immediate funding for forest access roads and will also ensure that the dangers of forest fires and insect infestations are minimized."

The loss of stumpage fees to the province and increased costs of harvesting for the forest industry will be substantial.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has significantly reduced the salvage rate for damaged timber and is providing assistance with marketing, amendments to timber management plans and other help through a special project team. MNR is also developing a fire management strategy for the area. Signs will be posted soon on forest access roads to the area warning of fire hazards.

"To get salvage operations under way as soon as possible, my ministry has redirected \$510,000 from the Northern Ontario Resources Transportation (NORT) program to fund immediate construction of logging roads to provide access to the damaged timber," Northern Development and Mines Minister Shelley Martel said.

"I am pleased my ministry is able to assist in dealing with this disaster," Miss Martel said.

Boise Cascade estimates that it can salvage up to one million cubic metres of damaged timber over the next fiscal year. The company is developing plans to relocate forest contractors to the blowdown area within a few weeks. The company is also working with other forest companies to develop plans for marketing and salvaging assistance.

blowdown - 2

"Boise Cascade should be congratulated for moving quickly to salvage damaged timber," Mr. Wildman said. "Even though the company's additional harvesting costs will be significant, it is moving ahead to ensure that the timber is salvaged and that the forest can be regenerated as quickly as possible. I'm pleased that the company views this as a long-term investment in the future of the forest."

The damaged timber is expected to maintain its fibre quality for between 24 and 30 months. Not all timber in the blowdown area can be salvaged. Some is too badly damaged, too remote or too dangerous to harvest.

The blowdown affected three forest areas about 100 kilometres north of Kenora. The worst effects are in the Pakwash Forest Management Agreement area, where about 136,000 hectares and four million cubic metres of timber were damaged. Another 9,500 hectares and 475,000 cubic metres were damaged in the Kenora Crown Management Unit and about 4,500 hectares and 500,000 cubic metres were damaged in the Red Lake Crown Management Unit.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Don Pento
District Office
RED LAKE (807) 727-2253

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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August 9, 1991

NEGOTIATIONS STALL ON NEW AGREEMENT FOR GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING

Negotiations have stalled on a new agreement to control gypsy moth on private land in southern Ontario.

The negotiations have been between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Gypsy Moth Management Committee, an association of municipal governments. The current agreement to spray gypsy moth on private land expires December 31, 1991.

"It appears negotiations have reached an impasse," Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman said. "Obviously, I am disappointed. Our offer remains on the table, however, and I am willing to meet with the committee personally to discuss the impasse."

In negotiations, MNR has proposed a more balanced cost-sharing arrangement. Under this proposal, landowners who benefit from the program would pay a larger portion of the cost, which now is heavily subsidized by MNR.

"The serious fiscal climate affecting the Ontario Government makes it more important that those who participate in the program share more equitably in the costs," Mr. Wildman said.

Under MNR's proposals, landowners would pay \$60.00 for spraying up to three acres. A sliding scale of \$1.00, \$10.00, or \$15.00 per acre would be levied for additional acreage, depending on the size of a property. Under this proposal, MNR would continue to subsidize the program. At present, landowners pay \$6.00 an acre.

The Gypsy Moth Management Committee, made up of 17 district, regional and county municipalities and one First Nation reserve, administers the heavily subsidized spray program. In all, seven MNR proposals, which seek to increase the costs to private landowners in the program, have been rejected.

MNR is also proposing stricter criteria to limit the area eligible for spraying in order to reduce the amount of pesticide used in the environment. The new criteria will help to ensure that spraying of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a bacterial agent and the only insecticide used in the program, takes place only where the health of the forest is threatened by the feeding of gypsy moth caterpillars.

gypsy moth - 2

In the 10-year history of gypsy moth infestations in Ontario, feeding by the caterpillar has not caused significant forest mortality. Defoliation by the gypsy moth caterpillar rarely kills trees, although it may increase the effect of other stresses on trees.

MNR's proposals to more strictly limit areas sprayed for gypsy moth are consistent with the approach taken to other forest insects. Programs to control spruce budworm are under way in various locations across the province. The spruce and jack pine budworms, and the forest tent caterpillar, are all thriving in areas from Algonquin Park to the Manitoba border.

Spray programs are primarily intended to protect tree foliage in order to maintain the health and vigour of high-value forest areas. No attempt is made to eradicate a pest. Spraying is aimed at keeping trees green by reducing caterpillar populations, but some caterpillars will be present after spraying.

MNR will continue to initiate the development of a forest health strategy for Ontario. The ministry will provide public education and extension in forest health and advise landowners who wish to manage forest pests on their own property. Recently, a brochure titled "Gypsy Moth in Ontario" was released by MNR and the Gypsy Moth Management Committee.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Cindy Krishka
Tweed District
TWEED (613) 478-2330

Joe Churcher
Manager, Silviculture
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 946-2981



Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
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Gouvernement
Publication

August 13, 1991

MEDIA ADVISORY

MNR Evacuates Residents From Webequie Reserve

Heavy smoke from a large forest fire is forcing the evacuation of the far north community of Webequie.

The 400 residents of Webequie are being airlifted 370 kilometres south to Geraldton. The residents include elderly persons, infants and those who are sick or who have respiratory problems. The evacuees will be housed and fed in a large community hall complex in Geraldton.

The evacuation was recommended by on-site MNR fire staff and requested by the Webequie First Nation chief and council. It is being carried out by military and civilian transport aircraft.

The fire, Geraldton 50, covers more than 10,000 hectares and is burning 45 kilometres west of the community. Yesterday, under hot, dry conditions, the fire exhibited erratic behavior, with flames up to 50 metres high and rates of spread at up to 40 metres per minute.

MNR has assigned a provincial fire team, fire crews and helicopters to the fire. An MNR emergency response coordinator is also in the community, working closely with the Webequie First Nation council. Fire crews have been concentrating on protecting private property, including outposts and trappers' cabins.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dale Smyk
Fire Management Centre
THUNDER BAY (807) 473-2216

Bob Thomas
Fire Management Centre
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 942-1800





August 13, 1991

MNR INVESTIGATING DEATH OF FIREFIGHTER

The Ministry of Natural Resources is investigating the death of a firefighter who collapsed yesterday while fighting a fire, suffered burns and later died.

MNR fire officials say Henry Panacheese, a 39-year-old firefighter, was part of a group of approximately 20 firefighters fighting a 10-hectare fire southeast of Pickle Lake, in the area of the Dona Lake gold mine.

"I am sending my condolences to Mr. Panacheese's family and to Chief Roy Kaminawaish of the New Osnaburgh First Nation," Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman said.

Shortly after 5:15 p.m., a field radio report indicated there was an injury on the fireline and that a firefighter required first aid. An MNR helicopter and mine rescue vehicle responded to the call and fellow firefighters immediately began administering first aid.

Trained emergency personnel from the mine rescue unit arrived shortly after, administered first aid and immediately transported Mr. Panacheese to the medical clinic at Pickle Lake. He received further treatment in preparation for air evacuation to a trauma centre but died at the clinic at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Panacheese had been found unconscious and had suffered second- and third-degree burns, primarily to his back and one arm. It is suspected that he collapsed unconscious before suffering the burns.

Mr. Panacheese was a member of the New Osnaburgh First Nation, just south of Pickle Lake. He is survived by his mother Christine, his father Daniel, and three brothers.

The fatality is being investigated by the Pickle Lake detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police. The provincial director of aviation, flood and fire management is also appointing an MNR team to investigate the tragedy.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Debbie MacLean
Fire Management Centre
DRYDEN (807) 937-4402

Bob Thomas
Fire Management Centre
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 942-1800





Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
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August 14, 1991

MNR ENACTS EMERGENCY AREA ORDER FOR FAR NORTH AREA

As a result of extreme fire hazard conditions, the Minister of Natural Resources has declared a forest fire emergency area centred on the far north community of Webequie.

The emergency area encompasses a 3,000-square-kilometre rectangle of land stretching north from the 52 parallel, an east/west line 225 kilometres north of Geraldton. The area includes the communities of Kasabonika, Webequie, Summer Beaver and Lansdowne House.

"The extreme conditions, the current threats to communities and the potential for new fires makes it necessary to take this measure at this time," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

Under the Forest Fires Prevention Act, the minister may invoke an Emergency Area Order (EAO), which gives him the authority to take whatever action necessary for effective fire suppression or for the safety or evacuation of persons in the area.

Yesterday, MNR ordered the evacuation of 400 residents of Webequie to the Town of Geraldton. Fire officials are concerned for residents of Lansdowne House, and for two communities just south of the emergency area, Fort Hope and Ogoki.

"Our aviation and fire resources are being taxed to the limit fighting existing fires and responding to new fires," said Mr. Wildman. "Fighting new fires under these extremely hot, dry conditions is an added burden."

To eliminate the potential for human-caused fires, the ministry imposed a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) in both its Northwestern and Northern regions, and extended the RFZ already in place in its North Central Region. The RFZ prohibits any open fires, including campfires for cooking or warmth. In addition, burning permits have been cancelled across most of Northern Ontario and restrictions placed on forest industry activities.

more...

order - 2

Currently, there are approximately 100 active fires in the province involving an area of almost 95,000 hectares.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bob Thomas
Provincial Fire Centre
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 942-1800



Ontario

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August 16, 1991

**MINISTRY TO DEVELOP SPRAY PROGRAM
FOR INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPALITIES
IF NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH GYPSY MOTH COMMITTEE**

The Ministry of Natural Resources will work directly with individual municipalities on a gypsy moth spraying program if a new agreement cannot be reached with the Gypsy Moth Management Committee (GMMC).

The committee administers a program with MNR to control gypsy moth on private land in southern Ontario.

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman met Thursday with negotiators for the management committee to explain MNR's concerns about the cost to taxpayers of the current spraying program and the need for private landowners to assume a greater share of the costs.

"Unless the negotiating committee and MNR can come to an agreement and accept our offer, the spraying program with the committee is in jeopardy," Mr. Wildman said. "MNR will develop a spray program for individual municipalities at our proposed rates to ensure that a spraying program can continue."

In the meeting, Mr. Wildman also indicated to the committee that MNR's current proposal for a new agreement remains on the table. MNR's cost-sharing proposals were developed in light of the serious fiscal climate affecting the Ontario Government.

Under MNR's proposals, landowners would pay \$60.00 for spraying up to three acres. A sliding scale of \$15.00, \$10.00, or \$1.00 would be levied for additional acreage, depending on the size of a property. At present, landowners pay \$6.00 an acre. In their counter offer Thursday, the GMMC negotiators proposed that landowners pay \$25.00 for spraying up to two acres with a sliding scale for larger areas.

"The committee's latest proposal is substantially less than its earlier offers and, therefore, I was forced to reject it as too costly for taxpayers," Mr. Wildman said. "Making a new offer that is much lower than its earlier proposals raises questions about the committee's commitment to achieving a settlement that is acceptable to both the municipalities and the provincial government."

The Gypsy Moth Management Committee is an association of 17 district, regional and county municipalities and one First Nation. The current agreement, which is heavily subsidized by the province, to spray gypsy moth on private land expires December 31, 1991.

"MNR's current offer is fair and generous, and is similar to earlier proposals made by the negotiating committee," Mr. Wildman said. "Our offer will not reduce the costs of the program for the taxpayer as much we would like, but we are still prepared to leave the proposal on the table for the negotiating committee in the hope that we can reach a reasonable settlement."

In negotiations, MNR is also proposing stricter criteria to limit the area eligible for spraying to reduce the amount of pesticide used in the environment. The new criteria will help to ensure that spraying of bacillus thuringiensis (bt), a bacterial agent and the only insecticide used in the program, takes place only where the health of the forest is threatened by the feeding of gypsy moth caterpillars.

Although feeding by the gypsy moth caterpillar may increase the effect of other stresses on trees, this defoliation rarely kills trees. In the 10-year history of gypsy moth infestation in Ontario, the gypsy moth has not caused significant forest mortality in the opinion of MNR.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Williamson
Southern Region
KEMPTVILLE (613) 258-8202

Joe Churcher
Forest Resources Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 946-2981

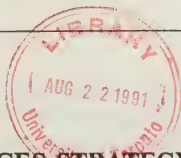


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August 19, 1991

ONTARIO ANNOUNCES STRATEGY TO REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION AND USE WATER WISELY

The Government of Ontario is challenging Ontarians to use water sustainably.

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced a new provincial water-efficiency initiative to achieve zero growth in water use to the year 2011. The goal of the initiative is to reduce water use in Ontario homes, industries and government offices to ensure the future health of the province's vital water resource.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will launch a substantial public awareness campaign to alert people to the need to cut water consumption and use water wisely.

Mr. Wildman also announced that a key element in the strategy will be the development of a provincial water efficiency strategy. The province will invite institutional, municipal, industrial, commercial, agricultural, environmental and other groups to assist in developing the strategy.

The provincial government has accepted the challenge to cut water use and is undertaking measures to use water wisely in government buildings.

"Studies show that municipal water use increases every year because of inefficiency, wastefulness and increased population growth," Mr. Wildman said. "We must turn this around with an ongoing commitment by Ontarians to use water wisely, at a sustainable rate."

Inefficient use of water carries heavy environmental and economic costs. Purifying ever-increasing amounts of drinking water and cleaning the resulting wastewater requires significant amounts of chemicals and energy. In 1991 the cost of water purification and wastewater cleanup will likely be about \$1.7 billion, nearly triple the cost in 1980.

If demand continues to increase, most communities will face the substantial cost of expanding existing water treatment plants or building new ones. In addition, some communities that rely on groundwater already face water shortages and may have greater problems in future.

"By adopting water efficient practices used elsewhere, Ontarians can achieve zero-growth in water use at least to the year 2011," Mr. Wildman said. "If we achieve zero growth, we will reduce stress on the environment, lessen the likelihood of water shortages and reduce energy costs."

The new water efficiency initiative highlights reducing water use at the municipal level because most of the province's water demand is from homeowners, industries and commercial users.

Through the public awareness campaign the province will encourage homeowners to adopt a number of simple practices to significantly cut water consumption. Homeowners can reduce leaks from faucets or faulty valves and cut water used for lawn watering and car washing. They can also install inexpensive water efficient shower heads, toilet dams and new water efficient toilets.

"To make the water efficiency initiative a success, we need the help of homeowners," Mr. Wildman said. "By making simple changes to the way they use water, they can make an immediate and significant contribution to reducing water consumption while a provincial water efficiency strategy is being developed."

Recommendations for a provincial water efficiency strategy will be developed by representatives from government, industry, municipalities, environmental organizations and others. They will consider a wide range of measures for promoting wise water use in Ontario, including public education on water use, installing water efficient devices, more widespread installation on water meters, new pricing structures and demonstrations of ways to use water wisely.

Through the awareness campaign, the industrial, commercial and agricultural sectors will be encouraged to cut their water consumption. Using water wisely in industrial and commercial operations makes good environmental sense and it will save these operations money. In some cases there could be significant savings.

"I hope that recommendations on a water efficiency strategy can be ready before next summer," Mr. Wildman said. "The strategy will be a blueprint for the next 20 years."

Within the provincial government, MNR will play a lead role in working with other ministries, including Environment, Education, Housing and Government Services, to foster wise water use. The strategy on wise use of water is part of the government's overall concern with water quality. Several initiatives are under way, including:

- developing a learning program for schools to promote wise use of water, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and boards of education;
- developing water efficient building codes for plumbing, in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and manufacturers of plumbing fixtures.

In addition, the Ministry of Government Services (MGS) is developing a strategy for water practices in its 9,000 Ontario government buildings. MGS is planning demonstration projects on landscaping and building retrofits to show water efficient management. The intent is to make sure the provincial government uses water wisely.

"By acting in partnership now, all the province's water users can help avoid the expense of expensive new water and wastewater plants and help with pollution control," Mr. Wildman said. "Together we can ensure that Ontario's water use is truly sustainable."

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bill Wardle
Water Policy
TORONTO (416) 965-1573

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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communiqué

September 12, 1991

MEDIA ADVISORY

1991 Antlerless Deer Validation Tag Draw Complete

The Ministry of Natural Resources is advising Ontario deer hunters that the 1991 draw for antlerless deer validation tags is completed.

This year, 90,617 tags have been issued to hunters across the province. A total of 104,264 hunters applied for the draw.

While a basic licence entitles hunters to harvest an antlered deer, hunters must apply for a draw if they wish to hunt antlerless deer. Only hunters who are successful in the draw are notified by the ministry.

The ministry has mailed out notifications and tags to successful hunters in most areas of the province. Because of mailing complications, antlerless deer tags for the early seasons, opening September 14 or 21, are being distributed to MNR district offices as follows:

Wildlife Management Unit

9A, 9B
6, 7B
13
14

MNR District Office

Fort Frances
Kenora
Thunder Bay
Nipigon

Hunters who applied for an antlerless deer tag for the early seasons may enquire if they received a tag at the above district offices or at MNR's Public Information Centre, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, M7A 1W3, telephone (416) 965-4251. Tags may be picked up in person at the appropriate district office during regular business hours.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Howard Smith
Wildlife Policy Branch
NORTH YORK (416) 314-1056



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

news release
communiqué

Le 12 septembre 1991

AVIS AUX MÉDIAS

Résultat du tirage de vignettes de validation pour la chasse au chevreuil sans bois de 1991

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles (MRN) avise les chasseurs de chevreuil de l'Ontario que le tirage de vignettes de validation pour la chasse au chevreuil sans bois de 1991 est terminé.

Cette année, 90 617 vignettes ont été délivrées aux chasseurs ontariens. Un total de 104 264 chasseurs avaient envoyé leur demande.

Bien qu'un permis de chasse ordinaire permette aux chasseurs de capturer un chevreuil avec bois, il est nécessaire de s'inscrire au tirage de vignettes de validation pour pouvoir chasser le chevreuil sans bois. Seuls les chasseurs qui réussissent à obtenir une vignette en sont avisés par le ministère.

Le ministère a envoyé par la poste des avis et des vignettes aux chasseurs qui ont été choisis dans presque toutes les régions de la province. Toutefois, en raison des troubles postaux, les vignettes pour la chasse au chevreuil sans bois pour les saisons précoces de chasse à l'arc qui ouvriront le 14 ou le 21 septembre, sont délivrées dans les bureaux de district du MRN, comme suit :

Unité de gestion de la faune

9A, 9B
6, 7B
13
14

Bureau de district du MRN

Fort Frances
Kenora
Thunder Bay
Nipigon

Les chasseurs qui ont participé au tirage de vignettes pour la chasse au chevreuil sans bois pour la saison précoce, peuvent demander s'ils en ont obtenu une en communiquant avec un des bureaux de district ci-haut ou avec le Centre d'information du MRN, 99, rue Wellesley ouest, Toronto M7A 1W3, téléphone : (416) 965-4251. Vous pouvez aller chercher votre vignette en personne au bureau de district approprié, pendant les heures normales d'affaires.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: English version available.

SOURCE :

Howard Smith
Direction des politiques sur la faune
NORTH YORK (416) 314-1056





Ontario

Ministry of
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Ministère des
Richesses
naturelles

news release
communiqué

September 13, 1991

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$95,377 TO RESEARCH ONTARIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Researchers at Lakehead University have received a total of \$95,377 for four projects that will assist in developing the sustainability of Ontario's forests, wildlife and fisheries resources, Port Arthur MPP Shelley Wark-Martyn announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The grants are provided through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Mr. Wildman said.

"This type of research funding helps our universities maintain the excellent quality of their post-graduate programs and remain active members of the research community," said Ms. Wark-Martyn, Minister of Revenue.

Each of these projects is continuing research work that began last year. Dr. Kung-chi Yang has received \$12,607 to study the impact of tree spacing on the quality of wood harvested from black and white spruce stands.

Dr. Robert E. Farmer and Dr. Yves H. Prevost have received \$24,000 to study genetic variation within the tamarack species of northwestern Ontario. Results of this experiment will be useful in the genetic improvement of this and other boreal species.

Dr. Harold G. Cumming has been given a grant of \$43,000 to examine the effects of glyphosate herbicide on moose ranges. He will be trying to determine whether or not the herbicide can be applied at a rate that will achieve forest management objectives without causing undue harm to moose habitat.

Dr. Douglas W. Morris and Thomas W. Knight have received \$15,770 to investigate patterns of population regulation, habitat use, and the community organization of small mammals in the vast Hudson Bay lowlands. The project will provide an assessment of how habitat and landscape interact to influence small animals in northern wetlands.

This year, MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program is providing a total of \$715,491 for 32 projects at eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

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September 16, 1991

MNR GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS VALUABLE RESOURCES RESEARCH

Research teams from across the province are receiving a combined total of \$715,491 for 32 projects that will help develop the sustainability of Ontario's natural resources.

The funding is being provided to eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program. These projects cover a wide range of resource issues that relate to forestry, wildlife and fisheries management.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman said.

Funding applications are examined by the Ontario Renewable Resource Research Review Board, whose members include representatives from the provincial government, private industry, universities and interest groups. The board reviews all proposals for scientific merit and relevance to ministry programs. Its recommendations are then submitted to the ministry for final approval.

Of the 32 grants allocated, 21 will be used to fund ongoing research; 11 will support new projects. A total of 63 proposals were submitted for review by the board.

"The grant program indicates this government is committed to maintaining Ontario's high standard of post-graduate research," said Colleges and Universities Minister Richard Allen.

Dr. Gerald L. Mackie of Guelph University is studying the zebra mussel to try to identify factors that will limit its growth and reproduction rate.

Lake Erie's zebra mussel population is being researched by Dr. W. Gary Sprules and Dr. Hugh J. MacIsaac of the University of Toronto. They hope to determine the extent to which zebra mussels are disrupting the lake's food web.

In other fisheries-related projects, Dr. John C. Kingston and Dr. John P. Smol of Queen's University are examining the impact of acid rain in Killarney Provincial Park and the Sudbury area.

grants program - 2

Dr. Donald McQueen of York University is embarking on a six-year investigation of the different components which make up freshwater communities, their relative importance and interaction among them. Dr. McQueen's findings may influence future fish stocking programs.

Dr. Ed Crossman of the Royal Ontario Museum is examining ways in which natural factors, such as climatic warming, and human-caused factors, such as acidification and forestry, are affecting the distribution of fish populations in Ontario.

Forestry-related projects include efforts by Dr. Sandra M. Smith of the University of Toronto to develop a strategy to protect the jack pine from the white pine weevil. Dr. Kung-chi Yang of Lakehead University is studying the impact of tree spacing on the quality of wood harvested from black and white spruce stands.

Several of this year's grant recipients are conducting research that will assist wildlife management. For instance, Dr. Cheryl M. Pearce of the University of Western Ontario is using satellite images to identify and map isolated areas of wildlife habitat in southwestern Ontario. Dr. Bradley N. White of McMaster University is refining methods of applying DNA technology to species identification, for purposes of law enforcement.

"The range of projects that we are funding testifies to the quality of Ontario's research community," Mr. Wildman said. "Fostering a strong partnership with the academic community will better prepare MNR to address the complex resource management issues of the 1990s."

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
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September 16, 1991

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO RECEIVES \$259,635 TO RESEARCH ONTARIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Researchers at the University of Toronto have received a total of \$259,635 for nine projects that will assist in developing the sustainability of Ontario's forests and fisheries resources. St. Andrew-St. Patrick MPP Zanana Akande announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The grants are provided through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Mr. Wildman said.

"Funding grants such as these help make the University of Toronto a leader in resource management research," said Mrs. Akande, Minister of Community and Social Services.

Several of the grants will fund new projects. Dr. Sandra M. Smith has received a grant of \$37,124. She is trying to develop a management strategy that will help protect the jack pine from the white pine weevil. This study will concentrate on preventive planting methods and finding a natural solution to the pest.

Dr. Eduardo Blumwald received a grant of \$36,800 to investigate the effects of conditioning on the ability of containerized tree seedlings to withstand direct damage from cold during the winter months. This will help forest researchers to devise methods of protecting container seedlings from root damage by frost.

Dr. Jennifer Juzwik received \$22,000 to study the role of moisture stress in the development of root rot in white pine seedlings. If a relationship between moisture and root rot is found, Dr. Juzwik will be able to explore possible means of prevention.

The remaining projects are continuing from last year. Dr. Terence J. Blake has been given \$22,900 to study the chemical and structural changes that black spruce undergo when preconditioned to drought. This information can be used in the hardening of greenhouse seedlings and in the selection of drought-tolerant varieties for planting.

Dr. W. Raymond Cummins has received a \$24,601 grant to examine the alternative pathway of respiration in hybrid poplar and the extent to which this process affects the growth rate of trees. Dr. David Fayle is using his \$24,000 grant to study the effects of different degrees of thinning on the growth and development of jack pine. He is trying to determine what spacing will result in the best wood production.

Dr. Victor Timmer has received a \$36,000 grant to examine the interaction of nitrogen and phosphorus in the growth and nutrition of tree seedlings.

In fisheries-related projects, Dr. Henry A. Regier and Gordon A. Wichert have received a grant of \$17,500 to analyse data on land use, water quality and fish species in the Greater Toronto Area. The researchers will use this information to predict how future human activities will affect Toronto-area waters.

Dr. W. Gary Sprules and Dr. Hugh J. MacIsaac have been given \$38,710 to study the recently established zebra mussel colonies in Lake Erie. The researchers will study the extent to which zebra mussels are disrupting the lake's food web.

This year, MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program is providing a total of \$715,491 for 32 projects at eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

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September 16, 1991

McMASTER UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$43,968 TO RESEARCH ONTARIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Researchers at McMaster University have received a total of \$43,968 for two projects that will assist in developing the sustainability of Ontario's wildlife and fisheries resources, Hamilton West MPP Richard Allen announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The grants are provided through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Mr. Wildman said.

"The grant program indicates this government is committed to maintaining Ontario's high standard of post-graduate research," said Mr. Allen, Minister of Colleges and Universities.

A grant of \$27,500 will help Dr. Bradley N. White refine methods of applying DNA technology to species identification, for purposes of law enforcement. In the past, DNA analysis has provided evidence essential to the successful prosecution of violators of game laws.

The remaining \$16,468 is funding a project that began two years ago. Dr. D. Gordon McDonald and Dr. Christopher Wood are examining the degree of handling stress placed on lake trout transported from hatcheries to the open water. Part of the study involves investigating ways of alleviating that stress to improve the species' survival rate.

This year, MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program is providing a total of \$715,491 for 32 projects at eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

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September 16, 1991

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM RECEIVES \$24,350 TO RESEARCH ONTARIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Researchers at the Royal Ontario Museum have received \$24,350 for a project that will assist in developing the sustainability of Ontario's fisheries resources, St. Andrew-St. Patrick MPP Zanana 'Akande announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The grant is provided through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Mr. Wildman said.

"Grants such as these help the Royal Ontario Museum remain an active and valuable contributor to the province's research community," said Mrs. Akande, Community and Social Services Minister and member for the riding where the ROM is located.

Dr. Ed Crossman is examining the ways in which natural factors such as climatic warming, and human factors such as acidification and forestry, are affecting the distribution of fish populations in Ontario. This project will also help predict what future effects will be.

Some of the information Dr. Crossman will use in his investigation is drawn from an earlier study he conducted with the financial support of the grant program.

This year, MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program is providing a total of \$715,491 for 32 projects at eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of
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Ministère des
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communiqué

September 16, 1991

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$16,400 FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Researchers at Queen's University have received \$16,400 for a research project that will assist in developing the sustainability of Ontario's fisheries resources, Gary Wilson, MPP for Kingston and the Islands, announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The grant is provided through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Mr. Wildman said.

"This funding assistance helps the province's academic institutions remain active and valuable contributors to the research community," said Mr. Wilson.

Dr. John C. Kingston and Dr. John P. Smol will be building on past research conducted with assistance from the grant program to determine the impact of acid rain in Killarney Provincial Park and the Sudbury area. The three-year project will provide regional estimates of the number of lakes that have lost fish populations in recent years.

The results of this research will provide the ministry with a better understanding of the damage that acid rain has caused and the most efficient methods of rehabilitating affected lakes.

This year, MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program is providing a total of \$715,491 for 32 projects at eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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communiqué

September 16, 1991

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO RECEIVES \$16,728 TO RESEARCH ONTARIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Researchers at the University of Waterloo have received \$16,728 to continue a project that will help protect Ontario's natural heritage, Kitchener MPP Will Ferguson announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The grant is provided through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Mr. Wildman said.

"Grants such as this help Waterloo and other Ontario universities maintain the high quality of their post-graduate research programs," said Mr. Ferguson, Minister of Energy.

Dr. James S. Gardner and Dr. Jane Law are studying the evolution of the sand dunes in Presqu'île and Sandbanks provincial parks. Greater insight into the effects of erosion, especially during the winter months, will aid in the long-term protection and stewardship of these unique provincial parks.

This year, MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program is providing a total of \$715,491 for 32 projects at eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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September 16, 1991

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO RECEIVES \$25,343 TO RESEARCH ONTARIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Researchers at the University of Western Ontario have received a total of \$25,343 for two projects that will assist in developing the sustainability of Ontario's wildlife and fisheries resources, London Centre MPP Marion Boyd announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The grants are provided through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Mr. Wildman said.

"Research grants help Western and other Ontario institutions maintain the high quality of their post-graduate programs," said Ms. Boyd, Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues.

Both projects are continuing from last year. Dr. Cheryl M. Pearce has received a grant of \$7,843 to identify isolated pockets of wildlife habitat in southwestern Ontario. Once identified, Dr. Pearce will use satellite images to map the hedgerows, valleys and other natural corridors that connect these fragmented areas. This knowledge will help resource managers protect important areas so that wildlife may continue to live in, and move through, a human-dominated landscape.

The remaining \$17,500 has been awarded to Dr. Norman P. A. Huner of the University of Western Ontario and Dr. Ladislav Malek of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. They are studying the effectiveness of a new technique for evaluating the cold hardiness of tree seedlings and their tolerance to freezing.

This year, MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program is providing a total of \$715,491 for 32 projects at eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

**news release
communiqué**

September 16, 1991

YORK UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$35,600 TO RESEARCH ONTARIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Researchers at York University have received \$35,600 for a project that will assist in developing the sustainability of Ontario's fisheries resources, Downsview MPP Anthony Perruzza announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The grant is provided through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Mr. Wildman said.

"These grants are more than just an investment in the future of Ontario's resources, they are an investment in our educational institutions as well," said Mr. Perruzza.

Dr. Donald McQueen will be conducting comparisons and manipulations of fish communities at the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resource Centre and the surrounding Dorset area.

The six-year project will examine a variety of resource issues, including the relationship of the major components that comprise freshwater communities, the relative importance of these components and detailed descriptions of the interactions among them.

This year, MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program is providing a total of \$715,491 for 32 projects at eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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Ministry of Ministère des
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September 16, 1991

GUELPH UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$198,090 TO RESEARCH ONTARIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Researchers at Guelph University have received a total of \$198,090 for 11 projects that will assist in developing the sustainability of Ontario's forests, wildlife and fisheries resources, Guelph MPP Derek Fletcher announced today on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The projects are being funded through grants by MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program.

"The assistance MNR receives from the province's research communities helps us to successfully fulfil our resource management objectives," Mr. Wildman said.

"This type of funding is essential to universities such as Guelph," said Mr. Fletcher. "Grants help our academic institutions to remain active and valuable contributors to the research community."

Five of the 11 projects involve new research. Dr. Gerald R. Stephenson received a grant for \$7,500. He is comparing the tolerance of red pine and jack pine to root applications of a herbicide which is often used in the site preparation of reforestation projects. The research will help foresters reduce damage to young crop trees.

Dr. Peter G. Kevan's \$14,400 grant is being used to study the dispersal patterns of the wild pollens which often contaminate seed orchards. He plans to create a physical model of these patterns which will serve as a predictive tool in the management of black spruce and jack pine stands in northern Ontario.

Dr. David L. G. Noakes has received a \$25,590 grant to study smallmouth bass in Lake Opeongo to determine the relationship between the size, age, energy reserves and reproductive success of male bass. In addition, the project will examine the survival rate, growth and feeding behavior of broods to gain a better understanding of how this species breeds in the wild. Dr. Noakes's research may eventually be applied to the management of this popular game fish.

Dr. Gerald L. Mackie has received \$36,905. He is researching the zebra mussel to determine the major chemical, physical and biological factors that may limit its growth and reproduction in Ontario lakes. This information will also be used to predict which lakes are most sensitive to zebra-mussel infestation.

Drs. Ian K. Barker, Gordon A. Surgeoner and Scott A. McEwen have been given \$18,660 to determine whether or not groundhogs can carry the bacterium that causes Lyme Disease. The raccoon tick will also be studied in an effort to determine whether or not it is able to transmit the bacterium.

The remaining research projects are continuing from last year. Dr. Andrew Gordon has received \$5,615 to study the success rate of red oak seedlings when competing growth has been controlled or removed. The red oak is valuable as an important source of wood and as a source of food for wildlife. Dr. Gordon is also working with Dr. Ray McBride on a study of the interaction between free carbonates and other soil nutrients, and how that interaction affects red pine growth. This project is being supported by a grant of \$22,242.

Drs. Colin D. McKeen, Gregory John Boland and John D. Ambrose have received \$8,980 to continue their assessment of whether chestnut blight can be combatted by using a mild strain of the disease to produce healing cankers on affected trees.

Drs. Roy G. Danzmann, Paul D. N. Hebert and Neil Billington have received a \$29,900 grant to studying the genetic variation of brook trout in Algonquin Provincial Park. The researchers will try to determine whether any of the park's brook trout populations are genetically unique and compare the growth rates of various brood stocks. Dr. Moira M. Ferguson has received \$16,898 to study the brook trout of Algonquin's Mykiss Lake. She is trying to determine whether different genetic combinations are associated with greater survival rates, whether different mating pairs have varying numbers of offspring, and the amount of genetic variation that results from different matings.

Dr. John Fryxell's \$11,400 grant will help support an investigation of how the productivity and stability of beaver colonies are affected by food supply.

guelph - 3

This year, MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grant Program is providing a total of \$715,491 for 32 projects at eight Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Heywood
Financial Resources Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-3049

Sarah Minhas
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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**news release
communiqué**

September 19, 1991

**MINISTER ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO PROTECT
OLD-GROWTH WHITE AND RED PINE FOREST
IN SAULT STE. MARIE AREA**

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced a new initiative to protect the largest identified area of old-growth white and red pine forest in the Sault Ste. Marie area, and in all of northeastern Ontario.

The initiative combines three areas of white and red pine, hardwoods and other species into a 6,000-hectare block that will be protected from any harvesting while a provincial strategy for old growth is developed.

"We are committed to developing a comprehensive old-growth strategy that will protect significant areas of old-growth white and red pine and also other species in all the ecological regions of the province," Mr. Wildman said.

The area protected by this initiative, called Ranger North, joins three sites that were recently identified in the MNR-commissioned Iles Report to identify large areas of old-growth white and red pine areas in MNR's Northeastern Region. At the time they were identified, the three areas, Bliss Lake, Quinn Lake and Galloway Lake, all met specific criteria -- a minimum undisturbed area of 500 hectares of white or red pine stands with trees older than 140 years.

Today's announcement ensures that the east Galloway area will be protected from harvesting while an old-growth strategy is being developed.

The west Galloway area, however, will be available for harvest and renewal in order to support the local forest industry and maintain its economic viability.

"This initiative to protect the largest area of old-growth forest in the Sault Ste. Marie district was developed after discussions with some well-known environmental groups active in forestry issues," Mr. Wildman said. "I'm confident that it will be supported by environmental groups that want to help develop a comprehensive old-growth strategy for Ontario."

... / 2

old growth - 2

Mr. Wildman also reconfirmed today his commitment to Sustainable Forestry -- a program that will be the foundation for a new system of forest management in Ontario, and he emphasized MNR's commitment to developing a policy for the conservation of old-growth ecosystems.

A key part of the program is to develop a policy on protecting old-growth ecosystems, through the establishment of a Policy Advisory Committee that will develop recommendations on a conservation strategy for old-growth forest ecosystems.

One of the first tasks the Policy Advisory Committee will undertake is to identify other areas of old-growth white and red pine both within and outside northeastern Ontario. In addition, the committee will be identifying old-growth areas of other forest types in all the ecological regions of the province.

MNR has already advertised for applicants willing to serve on this committee and expects the Policy Advisory Committee to begin its work by November. It will make interim recommendations to the Minister on a strategy for conserving old-growth white and red pine by the fall of 1992.

The committee will then make its final recommendations so that a conservation strategy for all old-growth ecosystems will be in place by the end of 1993.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



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news release
communiqué

September 20, 1991

**MNR, CWS ANNOUNCE TEMPORARY CLOSURE
OF GOOSE HUNTING SEASON
IN PART OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

The 1991 goose hunting season will be closed in an area west of the Grand River from October 1 to 14, 1991, to protect stocks of Canada Geese that breed on southern James Bay.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is announcing the closure in conjunction with the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). A regulation passed under the Migratory Birds Convention Act enacts this temporary closure.

The closure affects five Ontario wildlife management units (WMUs 90 to 94) covering an area from west of the Grand River to the Canada/United States border at Windsor. A high percentage of the traditional Ontario harvest of these geese occurs in these units.

A recent survey of breeding grounds for Southern James Bay geese, which used improved techniques, shows that the 1990 and 1991 breeding periods have been two of the poorest in the past 20 years.

The season is being closed for the first two weeks of October, the peak migration period for these geese, to reduce hunting of adult geese and to conserve stocks. The Southern James Bay geese migrate through southwestern Ontario and spend the winter in the southeastern United States around Tennessee.

Hunting is closed for all geese because it is difficult for hunters to distinguish between the Southern James Bay geese and the slightly larger-bodied, yet plentiful, geese that are resident in southern Ontario. The goose hunting season in WMUs 90 to 94 will be open from September 25 to 30 and from October 15 to December 31, with a late season from January 15 to 23 except in WMU 94.



geese hunt closure - 2

Action has also been taken in jurisdictions of the United States where Southern James Bay Geese migrate and spend the winter. In those areas, hunting seasons and quotas have been adjusted to reduce the harvest.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Darrell Dennis
Ontario Region
Canadian Wildlife Service
LONDON (519) 681-0486

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

news release
communiqué

November 22, 1991

Minister Announces Review of Allocation of Moose Tags to Outfitter Industry

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced a review of how moose hunting tags are allocated to the tourist outfitter industry.

The review will examine the current system -- called the Tag Share System -- for allocating a portion of the tags for hunting adult moose to individual tourist outfitters. About 10 per cent of the annual harvest of adult moose is reserved for the industry.

"Tourist outfitters have requested a review of the tag share system to ensure that it is fair and effective," Mr. Wildman said. "I'm pleased that we are able to undertake the review and I hope to be able to implement recommendations for improvements for the 1993 hunting season."

Len Wood, parliamentary assistant to Mr. Wildman and MPP for Cochrane North, and Dan Waters, MPP for Muskoka-Georgian Bay and parliamentary assistant to Tourism and Recreation Minister Peter North, will undertake the review.

The review will consist of discussions with outfitter organizations on problems with the current tag system and possible solutions; a survey of the 650 tourist outfitters currently in the system and outfitters who have applied to enter the system; and a small number of meetings with outfitters across the province. It is expected that the process will begin in the spring.

The Ontario Moose Allocation Advisory Committee, which has advisors from both MNR and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, will participate in the review. Mr. Wood and Mr. Waters will provide a final report with recommendations on changes to the Minister.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

Howard Smith
Wildlife Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-1055



Le 22 novembre 1991

L'AFFECTATION DES VIGNETTES POUR LA CHASSE À L'ORIGNAL AUX POURVOYEURS TOURISTIQUES SERA ÉTUDIÉE

Le ministre des Richesses naturelles, M. Bud Wildman, a annoncé aujourd'hui qu'une étude sera entreprise pour examiner comment les vignettes de chasse à l'orignal sont affectées aux pourvoyeurs touristiques.

Cette étude se penchera sur le système courant -- le système de partage des vignettes -- qui supervise l'affectation d'une partie des vignettes pour la chasse à l'orignal adulte à divers pourvoyeurs touristiques. Cette industrie a droit à quelque 10 pour 100 de la récolte annuelle d'originaux adultes.

«Les pourvoyeurs touristiques veulent que le système de partage des vignettes soit examiné pour s'assurer qu'il est juste et efficace», a déclaré M. Wildman. «Je suis heureux que nous puissions effectuer cette étude et j'espère que nous pourrions mettre en oeuvre les recommandations visées d'ici le début de la saison de chasse 1993.

M. Len Wood, adjoint parlementaire de M. Wildman et député de Cochrane Nord, et M. Dan Waters, député de Muskoka-Georgian Bay et adjoint parlementaire de M. Peter North, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, se chargeront de mener à bien cette étude.

L'étude comprend des discussions avec les groupes de pourvoyeurs pour évaluer les problèmes posés par le système actuel d'affectation des vignettes et les solutions possibles, un sondage sur les 650 pourvoyeurs participant présentement au système et sur les autres pourvoyeurs qui ont demandé à participer et quelques rencontres avec des pourvoyeurs à l'échelle de la province. Ce processus devrait être entrepris au printemps.

Le Comité consultatif sur l'affectation des vignettes de chasse à l'orignal de l'Ontario, qui comprend des représentants du ministère des Richesses naturelles et du ministère du Tourisme et des Loisirs, participera à l'étude. M. Wood et W. Waters soumettront ensuite un rapport final contenant les recommandations proposées au ministre.

- 30 -

EDITOR'S NOTE: English version available.

SOURCES :

Brian Blomme
Direction des services de communications
TORONTO (416) 965-2756

Howard Smith
Direction des politiques de la faune
TORONTO (416) 314-1055



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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November 28, 1991

MNR Proposes Measures to Protect and Manage A Wider Range of Ontario's Wildlife

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today introduced, for first reading, amendments to the Game and Fish Act which will allow the province to manage and provide greater protection for all of Ontario's wildlife.

"The proposed amendments will expand the Act to ensure that equal consideration is given to a wide spectrum of wildlife species," Mr. Wildman said.

"The Game and Fish Act was last amended in 1980. Since that time, there have been significant changes in the public's attitudes toward wildlife," Mr. Wildman added.

The present Act is focused on the protection of game species and does not allow the Government to protect non-game species.

For example, most birds of prey and their eggs may be taken from the wild and there is no control over the possession or sale of such birds or their parts. This is inconsistent with the ministry's efforts to maintain and enhance populations of native birds of prey and to reintroduce peregrine falcons and eagles to Ontario.

The proposed amendments will provide protection for all birds of prey in the wild and clearly establish provincial control over the keeping of such birds in captivity.

Since the government is committed to providing protection for a wider spectrum of wildlife species, it is proposed that the name Game and Fish Act be changed to the Wildlife and Fish Act.

The amendments will also deal with the possession of undesirable species in Ontario. These are species which might have a negative impact on native wildlife populations if they are brought into the province. There is currently no legislation to control or prohibit the possession of such species.

The proposed amendments will provide a definition for "undesirable species" and will give the province authority to prohibit or restrict their possession.

Game & Fish Act - 2

In response to concerns that the current maximum penalty of \$25,000 is not an effective deterrent to those who engage in the illegal commercialization of wildlife, MNR proposes to establish a much higher deterrent -- \$100,000 or imprisonment or both.

To protect the black bear population, amendments are being proposed to limit hunters to one bear licence a year, assign black bear quotas to trappers, and introduce regulations to control the use of dogs and bait in bear hunting.

Other areas covered in the proposed amendments include the rehabilitation of injured or distressed wildlife, royalties or levies for the commercial fishery, commercial aquaculture, trapping methods in urban areas and hunter and public safety.

The proposed amendments will ensure that the powers of search and seizure exercised by enforcement officers, comply with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In developing these amendments, the ministry consulted with major interest groups such as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters, the Ontario Fish Producers' Association and the Ontario Trout Farmers' Association.

The ministry is currently conducting a major public consultation to obtain the public's views on recommendations for a Wild Life Strategy for Ontario. The recommendations were prepared by the Wildlife Working Group, a citizens' advisory group established in 1989.

The proposed Game and Fish Act amendments will provide the legislative framework by which some of the Working Group's strategic recommendations can be implemented. Other recommendations of the Wildlife Working Group, such as those relating to ownership of wildlife, require further consultation before they are implemented in a future Wildlife Act.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Murray Smith
Wildlife Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-1050

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-2756



Fact Sheet

Actualités

November 1991

Game And Fish Act Amendments

The proposed amendments to the Game and Fish Act reflect changes in public attitudes in the last decade. The present act focuses on the protection of species which are hunted, trapped or caught. The amendments will permit protection of all wildlife species, not just game species.

The amendments will result in a number of changes:

New Title of Act and Definition of Wildlife

- The title of the act will be changed to the Wildlife and Fish Act to reflect the shift in focus from game species to the expanded coverage of other types of animals, commonly referred to as non-game.
- There will be a new definition of wildlife that includes game and non-game categories for mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, as well as categories for raptors (birds of prey) and invertebrates (species without a backbone), such as butterflies. For all categories except invertebrates, lists will be included in the act and species can be added to the various categories by regulation, as appropriate. Invertebrates to be protected will be named in regulation.

Hunter and Public Safety

- Under the proposed amendments, the province will have the authority to require hunters to wear orange clothing as a safety precaution when hunting.
- The amendments will make it possible to control hunting and possession of loaded firearms along roadways anywhere in the province.
- Under the proposed amendments, anyone hunting or trapping will not be permitted to possess a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

- The amendments reaffirm that the Wildlife and Fish Act does not affect existing aboriginal or treaty rights. The amendments also provide for the making of agreements with aboriginal people to enable them to exercise their rights.

Penalties and Prosecutions

- The maximum penalty for illegal commercial activities, such as the illegal sale or trade of wildlife, increases to \$100,000, or imprisonment for up to two years less a day, or both. The present maximum penalty is \$25,000.

Suspension of Hunting and Fishing Privileges

- Under the amended act, the court will have the increased power to suspend or cancel hunting or fishing privileges and to order retraining and examination for hunting convictions involving safety.

Expanded Opportunities for Commercial Aquaculture

- Amendments will enable the province to allow fish farmers to raise a variety of fish species, in addition to brook trout and rainbow trout.

The Black Bear Program

- The Game and Fish Act provides no control over the number of licenses a bear hunter may purchase, the number of bears a trapper may take each year, or the destruction of dens.
- The proposed amendments will allow the province to limit hunters to one bear license each year and to impose quotas for trappers. They will also allow the province to introduce regulations to control the use of bait and dogs in bear hunting, and the destruction of dens.

Wildlife in Captivity

- Wildlife in captivity is a category that includes zoos, displays, game farms, falconry, wildlife rehabilitation centres, and chasing animals with dogs or hunting wildlife in captivity.

- The view of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the provincial Wildlife Working Group is that the general public desires a restrictive and cautious approach to activities involving wildlife in captivity. The Wildlife Working Group is the public committee that has recommended a wildlife strategy for Ontario.
- The amendments to the act reflect this philosophy, but allow regulations to be made to permit certain activities under strict controls.
- The report of the Wildlife Working Group recommended that zoos and displays, falconry and wildlife rehabilitation facilities be permitted in a controlled manner. It also has recommended that game farming of native animals, principally white-tailed deer, be prohibited.
- The full range of activities to be permitted under the act will be established only after public consultation on these issues is completed. At present, this public consultation is still occurring.

Control of "Undesirable Species"

- The amendments provide that any member of the animal kingdom may be declared by regulation to be an undesirable species if it is brought into the province or possessed in Ontario and might be harmful to wildlife in Ontario.
- Depending on the threat posed, the province may control or prohibit possession of undesirable species.

Powers of Conservation Officers

- Under the amendments to the act, powers of search and seizure have been revised to comply with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The amendments provide Ontario's conservation officers with more detail and better direction as to their powers and obligations.
- The power of arrest without warrant has been increased. At present, conservation officers have to witness an offence in order to arrest without a warrant. The amended act allows an officer to arrest without a warrant, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that an offence has just been committed. For example, an officer arriving at a scene where an offence has just been committed, that has been witnessed by bystanders, would be able to arrest a suspect without a warrant.

Illegal Possession

- The amendments make it illegal to possess an animal in Ontario if it was illegally taken, killed, possessed, transported or removed under the laws of another jurisdiction.

Statutory Limitation

- Under the present act, a conservation officer must lay a charge within six months after an offence has been committed. The amendments to the act extend that period. Officers will have two years in which to lay a charge after an offence comes to their attention. But a charge may not be laid in any case more than three years after the date of the offence. The laying of charges for commercial offences, often involving several jurisdictions, is impeded by the current six-month limitation.

Commercial Fishing Licences and Royalties

- The amendments provide the framework for collecting royalties and levies on fish taken by commercial operators. The existing system is inequitable because it is based on the type and amount of fishing gear used.

Trapping Methods in Urban Areas

- This amendment is a response to concerns from municipalities. It will permit the making of regulations to restrict or prohibit body-gripping traps in urban areas by people who are otherwise permitted to use them, for example, trappers and farmers.

- end -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.



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CADON
NR
- NDS

December 13, 1991

MEDIA ADVISORY

The 1992 Update of the 1991 Summary of Sport Fishing Regulations is now available.

The eight-page Update lists regulations and changes to fishing in Ontario for the 1992 season. All other seasons, catch and possession limits, and sanctuaries listed in the 1991 Summary will remain the same.

Copies of the 1992 Update can be obtained at licence issuers or your local MNR office.

Anglers will need to refer to both the 1991 Summary and the shorter, easy-to-use 1992 Update. MNR is asking anglers to keep copies of the 1991 Summary. There are a limited number of 1991 fishing summaries still available for people who do not already have one.

In addition, there will be no increases in any of the 1992 licence fees.

The Resident Sport Fishing licence for the season costs \$11.50 plus GST, the Non-Resident Sport Fishing licence costs \$34.50 plus GST.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Cindy Decuzzi
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416)314-2098





Le 13 décembre 1991

AVIS AUX MÉDIAS

La mise à jour de 1992 du Résumé des règlements de la pêche sportive de 1991 est maintenant disponible.

Cette mise à jour de huit pages est facile à consulter et indique les règlements et les modifications qui s'appliquent à la saison de pêche ontarienne de 1992. Toutes les autres saisons, limites de prise et de possession et réserves qui sont énumérées dans le Résumé de 1991 resteront les mêmes.

Vous pouvez vous procurer des exemplaires de la Mise à jour de 1992 auprès des délivreurs de permis ou du bureau du MRN de votre région.

Les pêcheurs sportifs devraient donc consulter à la fois le Résumé de 1991 et la Mise à jour de 1992. Le MRN demande aux pêcheurs de ne pas jeter leur Résumé de 1991 car il n'en reste que quelques exemplaires qui seront offerts aux pêcheurs qui n'en ont pas.

Autre nouvelle : les droits des permis de pêche ne seront pas augmentés en 1992. Le permis de pêche sportive de résident de l'Ontario coûtera 11,50 \$ (TPS en sus) et le permis de pêche sportive de non-résident coûtera 34,50 \$ (TPS en sus).

- 30 -

EDITOR'S NOTE: English version available.

SOURCE :

Michel Payen-Dumont
Direction des services de communications
TORONTO (416) 314-2106



January 15, 1992

MNR Defers Reduction of Deer Herd in Rondeau To Undertake Further Discussions With First Nations

The Ministry of Natural Resources has deferred a reduction of the deer herd in Rondeau Provincial Park for January and February 1992 in order to undertake further discussions with aboriginal groups.

In keeping with the province's commitment to discussions with aboriginal people, MNR has committed itself to a full discussion process with First Nations about approaches to managing the deer in Rondeau that takes into account any treaty and aboriginal rights and the values of Rondeau park. MNR will also consult other interested parties.

A number of First Nations and their organizations in the Rondeau area have raised issues concerning their aboriginal and treaty rights to harvest deer locally for food purposes. These issues had not been fully dealt with in earlier consultations. The suspension of the operation will allow meaningful discussions with First Nations in the area to occur.

In light of the need for further discussions with aboriginal people, MNR will miss its optimum period for conducting a reduction of the herd in January and February 1992.

Along with the Caldwell First Nation, MNR is inviting the London District Council of Chiefs and the member First Nations of the Council, the Six Nations of the Grand River (Elected Council), the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, and the Union of Ontario Indians to take part in the discussions.

During these discussions with aboriginal groups, MNR will consult with other interested parties before it initiates any measures to reduce the Rondeau deer herd later in 1992.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (519) 314-2095

Daryl Smith
Information Services Co-ordinator
CHATHAM (519) 354-7340





Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources
Ministère des
Richesses
naturelles

**news release
communiqué**

Le 15 janvier 1992

Le MRN remet à plus tard l'élimination des chevreuils de Rondeau et entreprendra d'autres consultations avec les Premières Nations

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles a remis à plus tard en janvier, ou en février, l'abattage des chevreuils du parc provincial Rondeau. Entre-temps, le ministère consultera les groupes autochtones.

Conformément à l'engagement de la province à maintenir un dialogue avec les peuples autochtones, le MRN s'engage à consulter les Premières Nations en profondeur, en vue de déterminer la meilleure façon de gérer le chevreuil du parc Rondeau en tenant compte, d'une part, des droits accordés aux Premières Nations en vertu de traités et de leurs droits autochtones et, d'autre part, des ressources du parc Rondeau. Le ministère consultera également d'autres parties intéressées.

Plusieurs Premières Nations de la région de Rondeau et organisations qui leur sont associées ont en effet soulevé la question de leurs droits, autochtones et relatifs à un traité, à chasser le chevreuil de leur localité pour se nourrir. Ces questions avaient été négligées lors des consultations précédentes. Avec la suspension des opérations, une concertation en règle peut s'amorcer avec les Premières Nations.

En raison de la nécessité d'entamer de nouvelles discussions avec les peuples autochtones, le MRN manquera la période la plus judicieuse pour l'abattage en janvier et février 1992.

En plus de la Première Nation de Caldwell, le MRN a invité le Conseil des Chefs du district de London et les Premières Nations membres du Conseil, les Six Nations de Grand River (Conseil élu), l'Association des Iroquois et Indiens alliés et le Syndicat des Indiens de l'Ontario à participer aux discussions prévues.

Pendant ces discussions avec les groupes autochtones, le MRN consultera d'autres parties intéressées, avant de mettre en oeuvre les mesures visant à réduire la population de chevreuils du parc Rondeau, dans le courant de 1992.

-30-

EDITOR'S NOTE: English version available.

SOURCES :

Brian Blomme
Direction des services de communications
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

Daryl Smith
Coordonnateur des services d'information
CHATHAM (519) 354-7340



Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
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news release
communiqué

January 28, 1992

Minister Establishes Policy Advisory Committee To Recommend a Conservation Strategy for Old-Growth Forests

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today established a 10-member Policy Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for a strategy for the conservation of Ontario's old-growth forest ecosystems.

The committee will examine the biological, social, cultural and economic values associated with old-growth forests.

The public will have an opportunity to provide input into the committee's recommendations for a conservation strategy.

"The people of Ontario recognize the value of old-growth forests and they want these forests conserved," Mr. Wildman said. "We are committed to ensuring that Ontario has a conservation strategy as part of the Sustainable Forestry program I announced earlier this year."

The members of the Policy Advisory Committee are:

- **Brennain Lloyd** (Chair), of North Bay, with the environmental group Northwatch;
- **Vivienne Ball** of Sault Ste. Marie;
- **Kim Ginter** of Ear Falls;
- **Tim Gray** of Toronto;
- **Mary Laronde** of Bear Island, Lake Temagami;
- **Reverend Monica Moore** of Englehart;
- **Bill McGuinty** of Kirkland Lake;
- **Paula Neice** of Kars;
- **Clayton Shawana** of Wikwemikong; and
- **Fiona White** of Port Hope.

The committee will develop a framework for conserving representative old-growth forests, and will identify the studies needed to understand these forest ecosystems better. It will also recommend an interim strategy for conserving old-growth white and red pine forests to the Minister by the fall of 1992.

.../2

old growth - 2

The committee's final recommendations on an old-growth strategy for all forest types are to be presented to the Minister by the end of 1993.

"In order to recommend a conservation strategy that reflects public opinion, it will be important for the Policy Advisory Committee to consult widely," Mr. Wildman said.

A 10-member Scientific Advisory Committee will assist the Policy Advisory Committee to ensure that the recommendations are scientifically sound. Dr. David DeYoe, who is the chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee, will be an ex-officio member of the Policy Advisory Committee and will provide scientific expertise to the committee.

In addition, MNR has established a three-person, internal secretariat to provide liaison between the committees and give them administrative support. The secretariat will be based in MNR's regional office in Sudbury.

The initiative to develop an old-growth conservation strategy is one of several projects in the Sustainable Forestry Program. The other initiatives include the development of a comprehensive forest policy framework; the development of community forests program; private woodlands strategy; enhanced silviculture practice and research; and the establishment of a Forest Industry Action Group.

The old-growth conservation strategy will conform to the comprehensive forest policy framework which is to guide forest management in Ontario into the next century. An independent Forest Policy panel has begun developing recommendations for the framework.

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EDITORS: A fact sheet with more details on both the policy and scientific advisory committees is attached.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

Jim Miller
Co-ordinator, Old-Growth Conservation Initiative
SUDBURY (705) 675-4120



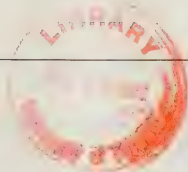
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Publication



January 31, 1992

Minister Criticizes Outdoors Group For Campaign Critical of Aboriginal Hunting

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman has criticized a recent newspaper advertisement campaign by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).

The ad was titled: "How Many Wild Turkeys are Being Killed!" It said that wild turkeys are being hunted "out-of-season by some native people" and this hunting is "putting their future at risk."

Mr. Wildman said the suggestions in the ad are incorrect and appear to be part of a disturbing campaign the OFAH is conducting against the exercising of aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food in this province.

"It is a campaign that is designed to create controversy about the activities of aboriginal people exercising their constitutionally protected rights to hunt and fish for food," Mr. Wildman said.

The assertion in the OFAH campaign that aboriginal people do something "illegal" when they hunt or fish "out-of-season" is incorrect. The province's interim enforcement policy clearly states that aboriginal people are entitled to fish and hunt for food in their treaty or traditional areas, and should not normally be subject to enforcement procedures.

This policy does not give aboriginal people unlimited access to hunt and fish wherever, or however, they want. Under this policy, for example, aboriginal people must hunt safely, must not put conservation at risk and must have permission to hunt or fish on private property.

The Canadian Constitution clearly entitles aboriginal people to exercise their aboriginal rights, and recent decisions by the Supreme Court of Canada reinforce these rights.

"The OFAH continues to deny that aboriginal people have the right to hunt and fish for food guaranteed by Canada's Constitution," said Mr. Wildman.

With regard to the suggestion in the ad that aboriginal hunting of wild turkeys is a conservation issue, the Minister has asked for a full report on the status of wild turkey populations and on the pressures on this species, including hunting from all sources.

MNR will investigate and act upon any incidents that appear to threaten conservation or public safety, and hopes that, should such incidents occur, they are reported promptly.

The aboriginal affairs policy of the Ontario government is rooted in the recognition of the inherent right of aboriginal people to be self-governing. First Nations occupied their lands in organized self-governing societies for thousands of years prior to European settlement.

First Nations have never given up their right to make their own decisions about lands and resources. Access to lands and resources is an integral component of the inherent right to self-government.

"It is unfortunate that the OFAH has chosen this point in our country's history to mount a campaign against aboriginal rights, when what is really needed is dialogue and understanding," Mr. Wildman said.

"I am convinced that the majority of Ontarians support the government's efforts to resolve long-standing grievances of aboriginal people and their right to self-government.

"The OFAH and all anglers and hunters should reject the confrontational approach and choose instead to engage in a positive dialogue about ways to recognize the rights of aboriginal people while ensuring proper resource management and conservation in Ontario and across Canada."

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



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**news release
communiqué**

February 12, 1992

Minister Seeks Public's Help To Plant Tree Seedlings

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today asked for public support in planting up to 23 million additional tree seedlings which will be made available to eligible individuals, groups and organizations this spring.

"The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) cannot afford to plant all the tree seedlings available to its silvicultural program this year," Mr. Wildman said. "Therefore, the ministry is teaming up with the Ontario Forestry Association (OFA) to seek the support of the public to assist us in planting as many of these trees as possible through a provincewide initiative that we are calling Operation Tree Plant.

"We are asking landowners, groups, associations, municipalities, First Nations and individuals from across Ontario to rally in support of this initiative. Trees are important to our natural environment, and this is an effective way for Ontarians to improve the environment while helping to save seedlings that otherwise might have to be destroyed," said Mr. Wildman.

"While we remain committed to pursuing our sustainable forestry program and to ensuring the long-term health of Ontario's forests, difficult financial times call for creative solutions to meet the public's expectations that MNR will continue to be a good environmental and financial manager," Mr. Wildman added.

"I'm pleased that the OFA and MNR are working together on this campaign," said Jim Coats, executive vice-president of the OFA. "This is a great opportunity to inform the people of Ontario about the benefits of planting trees, as well as to educate them about the need to replant idle rural lands."

This year, MNR will make available to eligible members of the public a total of up to 35 million tree seedlings, an increase of approximately 23 million from previous years. Normally, the ministry offers about 12 million tree seedlings to the public each year through sales at local MNR offices and to Ontario's conservation authorities.

To promote additional planting on private and Crown lands, MNR will distribute the seedlings on behalf of the OFA.

tree planting - 2

To qualify, customers must buy a minimum of 300 seedlings at a cost of 10 cents per seedling plus a handling charge and tax. The ministry will then provide additional seedlings at no extra cost. In addition, the trees must be planted on appropriate sites at least two hectares in size, and all sites must be approved by MNR. This initiative was designed -- and its eligibility criteria set -- so as to minimize impacts on private growers.

By charging the public a nominal fee for the first 300 seedlings, MNR hopes to protect the province's investment in growing the 23 million additional trees, about \$5.75 million, while maintaining traditional revenues from seedling sales.

The additional seedlings being made available this year cannot be stored in provincial nurseries for later use, as storage would make them unsuitable for successful planting. In addition, the seedlings must be refrigerated during shipping, and high costs rule out the option of sending the seedlings to other provinces or countries.

As part of the initiative, local MNR district offices will be providing complete details on who can get involved in planting trees, how to select appropriate sites and species, how to plant, how to order trees, and the available Crown land planting areas.

Specifically, MNR staff are approaching such organizations as municipalities, rural land and woodlot owners, conservation authorities, environmental and naturalist groups, agricultural and cottaging associations, and community and service groups, and will step up their campaign as the spring planting season draws nearer.

Persons or groups interested in obtaining tree seedlings, or requiring further information, should contact their local Ministry of Natural Resources district office or the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1553.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bob Thomas
Communications Services Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6607

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
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NOTES FOR REMARKS BY
THE HONOURABLE BUD WILDMAN
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING
MNR'S OPERATION TREE PLANT

MEDIA STUDIO, QUEEN'S PARK
TORONTO, ONTARIO
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1992
2:00 P.M.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Good afternoon. I'm joined today by Jim Coats, executive vice-president of the Ontario Forestry Association. Mr. Coats and I would like to announce details of an initiative to make available up to 23 million additional tree seedlings to eligible individuals, groups and organizations this spring.

The additional tree seedlings are available because MNR cannot afford to plant all the seedlings available to its silvicultural program this year. Therefore, the ministry is teaming up with the Ontario Forestry Association, or the OFA as it's sometimes called, to seek the support of the public to assist us in planting as many of these trees as possible. We are here today to launch this initiative, which we are calling Operation Tree Plant.

We are asking landowners, groups, associations, municipalities, First Nations and individuals from across Ontario to rally in support of this campaign. Trees are important to our natural environment in a number of ways, and this is an effective way for Ontarians to improve the environment while helping to save seedlings that otherwise might have to be destroyed.

While we remain committed to pursuing our sustainable forestry program and to ensuring the long-term health of Ontario's forests, difficult financial times call for creative solutions to meet the public's expectations that MNR will continue to be a good environmental and financial manager.

This year, MNR will make available to eligible members of the public a total of up to 35 million tree seedlings, an increase of approximately 23 million from previous years. Normally, the ministry offers about 12 million tree seedlings to the public, through over-the-counter sales at local MNR offices and to Ontario's conservation authorities.

To promote additional planting on private and Crown lands, MNR will distribute the seedlings on behalf of the OFA. To qualify, customers must buy a minimum of 300 seedlings at a cost of 10 cents per seedling plus a handling charge and tax. The ministry will then provide additional seedlings at no extra cost.

As a condition of sale, the trees must be planted on appropriate sites at least two hectares in size. All sites will be approved by MNR. This initiative was designed -- and its eligibility criteria set -- so as to minimize impacts on private growers.

By charging the public a nominal fee for the first 300 seedlings, we hope to protect the province's investment in growing the 23 million additional trees, about \$5.75 million, while maintaining traditional revenues from seedling sales.

The additional seedlings being made available this year cannot be stored in provincial nurseries for later use, as storage would make them unsuitable for successful planting. The seedlings must be refrigerated during shipping, and high costs rule out the option of sending the seedlings to other provinces or countries.

As part of the initiative, local MNR district offices will be providing complete details on who can get involved in planting trees, how to select appropriate sites and species, how to plant, how to order trees, and available Crown land planting areas. Persons or groups interested in obtaining tree seedlings should contact their local MNR district office.

Specifically, MNR staff are approaching such organizations as municipalities, rural land and woodlot owners, conservation authorities, environmental and naturalist groups, agricultural and cottaging associations, and community and service groups, and will step up their campaign as the spring planting season draws nearer.

With Operation Tree Plant, we are asking Ontarians to assist us in planting these additional trees. MNR staff are also being asked to take up the challenge and to play a lead role within their own communities.

The success of the initiative will depend on the public's acceptance and support. Our traditional clients, who purchase and plant trees on their property each year, will greatly assist us, but we need everybody's help on this project.



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February 13, 1992

PLANNING AGREEMENT SIGNED BY ONTARIO AND FIRST NATIONS

The Ontario government, the Windigo Tribal Council and the Shibogama First Nations Council and four First Nations today signed an agreement to establish two interim planning boards in northwestern Ontario.

The Windigo Planning Board and the Shibogama Planning Board will advise the government on resource management for about 27,000 square kilometres of lands and waters in northwestern Ontario.

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman announced the Ontario-Windigo-Shibogama planning agreement today in Sioux Lookout on behalf of Northern Development and Mines Minister Shelley Martel and Environment Minister Ruth Grier.

"These are the first planning boards established in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation treaty area," Mr. Wildman said. "The agreement is a significant step forward in the involvement of Ontario First Nations in resource management of lands they have traditionally inhabited."

"By working together, we can ensure that the benefits of resource management reach the people of Northern Ontario," Ms. Martel said. "We hope the agreement will become a model for future development."

The planning boards will advise the province on the planning of land use, resource development, and associated issues in the areas covered by the agreement. The agreement is consistent with the province's commitment to the inherent right to self-government by First Nations, including access to lands and resources. The province is discussing with First Nations how to implement self-government.

"Although this agreement has been three years in the making, we believe it is a timely step towards operationalizing the recent Statement of Political Relationship between our First Nations and the Province of Ontario," said Eno C. Anderson, executive director of the Shibogama First Nations Council. "It recognizes our interest over areas of land which have always been ours traditionally."

"We are quite happy with this agreement," said Chief Simon Winnepetonga of Wunnumin Lake First Nation and Chief James Mamakwa of Kingfisher Lake First Nation.

agreement - 2

"Our lands are the basis for our survival," said Frank McKay, executive director of the Windigo Tribal Council. "This agreement allows our First Nations to participate in the plans and decisions affecting our lands within the planning board area."

The agreement covers three areas that lie south of Big Trout Lake and north of Pickle Lake in Northern Ontario. Two of the areas are covered by the Windigo Planning Board, and one is covered by the Shibogama Planning Board.

The planning boards will also develop community participation models suitable for use in remote northern Ontario.

The four communities that are part of the Windigo Tribal Council and the Shibogama Area Tribal Council are home to about 1,700 people.

Each of the planning boards will consist of an equal number of representatives from the tribal councils and the province, with an independent chair agreed to by both parties. The boards will remain in place for up to five years, and their effectiveness will be evaluated after three years, with a view to establishing more permanent arrangements.

"The planning boards will ensure that an effective and meaningful public participation process is implemented, involving the widest possible public consultation," Mr. Wildman said.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

Dick Hanlan
Northwestern Region
KENORA (807) 468-2632



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

**news release
communiqué**

February 13, 1992

Ministry Cancels Spraying Programs For Gypsy Moth and Budworm

The Ministry of Natural Resources has cancelled its 1992 spraying programs for spruce and jack pine budworm and gypsy moth.

"MNR is reallocating about \$3.8 million in funding for these spraying programs to other higher-priority initiatives in its forestry program," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The spruce and jack pine budworm program is directed at Crown land in northern Ontario. A one-year cancellation of the program is not expected to seriously affect the health of the forest over a majority of the area these insects now infest. The budworm program is planned to be resumed in 1993.

The gypsy moth spraying program covered both Crown and private land in southern Ontario. MNR had planned to discontinue its private-land spraying program for gypsy moth at the end of 1992 because the program involves a heavy subsidy to landowners from MNR and is too costly, particularly given current economic conditions.

In the past 10 years of research into the effects of gypsy moth in Ontario, MNR and Forestry Canada have observed that this insect has had very little impact on forests. Tree mortality in infested stands has been similar to natural mortality in forest stands.

MNR will replace the private-land gypsy moth spraying program by offering municipalities a co-operative Forest Health Information and Awareness Program. The new program will be offered in 1992 to the 24 municipalities that were taking part in the private land spraying program. The information program will be expanded to more municipalities in 1993.

"We need to reduce the costs to taxpayers for managing gypsy moths on private land and at the same time provide landowners with information that will help them make decisions on maintaining the health of their woodlands," Mr. Wildman said.

MNR will provide participating municipalities a grant to allow them to hire a Forest Health information officer. Training, educational and information material will also be provided by MNR. Municipalities will be asked to provide the information officer with administrative support and a workplace.

spraying - 2

The information program will help landowners become more aware of factors that may affect the health of their trees, and inform them about what they can do to help keep their trees healthy. It will teach landowners about such factors as drought, insects and diseases, and human activities that affect the health of the forest. Information provided to landowners will include how to determine if trees are under stress and what treatment options, such as spraying, are available.

MNR will also continue to provide private landowners with information and advice on forest management.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

Cindy Krishka
Forest Health Coordinator
TWEED (613) 478-2330



Ontario

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communiqué

March 19, 1992

Ministry Develops Agreement To Help Municipalities with Spraying Programs

The Ministry of Natural Resources has developed an agreement that will permit some municipalities to proceed with their own spraying programs for gypsy moth this year.

On February 13, MNR cancelled its gypsy moth program that subsidized spraying on private land. As an alternative for municipalities that were in the subsidized spraying program, the ministry has developed an agreement that the municipalities can sign with MNR that would allow local spraying programs to proceed.

The new agreement will provide municipalities with the authority they need under the Municipal Act to arrange for spraying on private land. Under the terms of these agreements, MNR will indemnify a municipality for liability for damages and legal costs that may occur as a result of spraying operations. Municipalities will have to comply with all regulations and legislation related to spraying and with all requirements for notifying the public about spraying. MNR will provide an auditor to ensure that procedures are followed.

The agreement is being offered to the 24 municipalities that were taking part in the ministry's subsidized program for spraying gypsy moth on private land. Under that old program, municipalities collected the financial contributions of private landowners for the MNR-subsidized spraying program.

Under the new agreement, municipalities that have collected sufficient funds from private landowners will be allowed to use that money for a local spraying program in their municipality.

Municipalities will be required to continue to spray for gypsy moth with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a product made from naturally occurring bacteria.

MNR continues to develop the co-operative Forest Health Information and Awareness Program it is offering in 1992 to the 24 municipalities that were taking part in the private land spraying program. The information program will be expanded to more municipalities in 1993.

The information program will help landowners become more aware of factors that may affect the health of their trees, and inform them about what they can do to help keep their trees healthy. It will teach landowners about how the health of the forest is affected by such factors as drought, insects and diseases, and human activities. Information provided to landowners will include how to determine if trees are under stress and what treatment options, such as spraying, are available.

The Forest Health Information and Awareness Program is a component of MNR's Private Woodland Strategy which provides landowners with assistance in managing their woodlands.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

Cindy Krishka
Forest Health Coordinator
TWEED (613) 478-2330



Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

news release
communiqué

March 24, 1992

Ontario Government Opens New Natural Resources Information Centre

Lieutenant-Governor, The Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman, and Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today officially opened the Natural Resources Information Centre and unveiled a new map of Ontario.

"This information centre is a model in the Ontario government. The centre is designed to serve the public more efficiently and invites visitors to learn more about their province," said His Honour Henry N.R. Jackman.

The new centre was designed to replace the former Public Information Centre, located in the Whitney Block at Queen's Park. The new centre is more centrally located in the Macdonald Block, and offers several features that improve customer service and simplify access to information.

"Every aspect has been designed with our customers in mind, from the product displays and instructional materials, which are user-friendly, to the wheelchair-accessible counters, doors, and high-contrast signs for the visually impaired," said Mr. Wildman.

Since cartography is a significant part of MNR's activities, a new map of Ontario was unveiled at the event. The bilingual map is the first in 40 years to show all of the province at one scale on one sheet.

Other features of the map include up-to-date place names, park names, municipalities and roads, with an index to communities across the province. For tourists and newcomers to Ontario, the map describes the origins of the province and visually represents the vast distances between its northern and southern regions.



.../2

information centre - 2

Copies of the map are available at the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1666. Each map costs \$14.95 plus taxes and \$3 for shipping and handling if ordered by mail.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2123

Anne Hamilton
Natural Resources Information Centre
TORONTO (416) 314-1560



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles

news release
communiqué

March 27, 1992

Minister Announces Pilot Projects For Community Forestry Initiative

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced four pilot projects for community forestry that will allow several communities to increase decision-making in the management of their local forests.

The four successful applicants are Geraldton, Wikwemikong First Nation, Elk Lake and the 6/70 Area Economic Diversification Committee, a coalition of six communities in the Kapuskasing area.

"Many northern towns depend on their local forests for social, recreational and economic benefits, so it makes sense for them to be more actively involved in their successful management," said Mr. Wildman. "We have chosen the projects we feel will provide us with valuable information on community forestry. The next step is to have the communities develop detailed project plans for these pilot projects, with MNR's assistance."

The pilot projects represent four different models for community forest management that MNR will test, in co-operation with its partners. Under these pilot projects, each community will establish an administrative organization. There will be public consultations on how to address planning and management activities, which may include access, harvest, renewal and maintenance.

"Partnerships between municipalities and government in these pilot projects will ensure that locally established goals and aspirations for forests are met," said Mr. Wildman.

MNR will approve the pilot project plans and monitor progress of the pilot projects to ensure that issues of a provincial, national and global nature are also addressed by the communities.

The pilot projects are one part of MNR's Community Forestry Project. This year, MNR will review existing partnerships -- such as the Agreement Forests program, the Algonquin Forest Authority and Forest Management Agreements -- to gain additional information on different partnership mechanisms.

The information from the pilot projects and the review of existing partnerships will provide the basis for public discussions and the eventual development of a long-term strategy for community forestry in 1995. The continuation of the pilot projects beyond March 31, 1995 will be evaluated in light of this provincial strategy.

community forestry - 2

For the development of the pilot project plans, MNR will provide each pilot project with up to \$100,000 in funding. The communities will each provide up to \$50,000 in funding. During the pilot project stage, MNR's existing commitments or tenure arrangements with forest companies will be honored. The projects will not displace MNR staff.

Twenty-two communities applied for the opportunity to develop community forestry pilot projects. Submissions were reviewed by a committee consisting of university, aboriginal, forest industry and labor representatives, environmental, business and citizens groups, and provincial government officials. The committee provided advice to Mr. Wildman for the selections.

The community forest pilot projects are part of a broader program to promote sustainable forestry in the province. MNR will provide the technical assistance to community forest administrators, but most decisions will be made by the community and will reflect the public's objectives for their forest.

In addition to the community forestry initiative, MNR's sustainable forestry program includes an independent audit of Ontario's regenerating forests; the development of an old-growth policy; development of a comprehensive forest policy framework; improved private-land forestry; and the enhancement of research into silvicultural practices and alternative vegetation management options.

"I am grateful for the support of the people who advised me on which community proposals should be tried in this new concept in local participative management of our forest resources," said Mr. Wildman. "Their advice will be sought again as we develop our strategy for community forestry, and I look forward to their support for this important partnership initiative."

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Hillier
Forest Policy Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6601

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



April 6, 1992

MEDIA ADVISORY

A preliminary report released today by the Ministry of Natural Resources indicates that in 1990 nearly two million anglers spent more than \$3 billion in Ontario on boating, camping and fishing equipment, travel and lodging, meals, guides, licence fees and incidentals, not to mention cabins, cottages and land.

Data collected in 1991 and now being analysed show that most of that expenditure (89 per cent) is made by Ontario residents. In 1990, nearly one in five Ontario residents over age 18 fished in the province. Walleye was the number one catch: 27 million of the total 146 million fish caught that year. However, both residents and visitors kept less than half their catch.

The *1990 Survey of Recreational Fishing in Ontario* provides economic and biological information that enables fisheries resource managers to better assess government policies related to recreational fisheries.

Survey results and analyses will be released starting later this month. The balance of the seven reports on the survey will be released through 1992 and into 1993. Comments and inquiries about the survey may be directed to Recreational Fishing in Ontario 1990, Client Services Section, Fisheries Policy Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources, 90 Sheppard Avenue East, 5th Floor, North York, Ontario M2N 3A1, telephone (416) 314-1130.

A fact sheet with highlights of the survey, and copies of the preliminary report are available from MNR district offices and the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1177.

-30-

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2123

Douglass Legg
Fisheries Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-1130



Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Ministère des
Richesses
naturelles

**news release
communiqué**

April 9, 1992

MNR DECLARES RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE IN MAJOR BLOWDOWN AREA OF NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

The Ministry of Natural Resources has declared a Restricted Fire Zone on a huge tract of forest in northwestern Ontario that was ravaged by windstorms in 1991.

The zone prohibits all fires, including campfires for warmth or cooking, and will be in effect from Wednesday, April 15 to Saturday, October 31, 1992.

"There is a potential for wildfires in the blowdown area to cause serious social and economic impact on local communities, and I support the decision made by a public committee to impose the fire restrictions," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The committee was formed to address forest fire concerns in the blowdown area. It included representatives from affected municipalities, aboriginal communities, the forest and tourist industries and MNRs' forestry and fire programs.

The Restricted Fire Zone covers a 150,000-hectare area north of Kenora. On July 18, 1991, a severe windstorm blew down trees over this area, resulting in the largest area of blowdown forest damage in the province's history.

The Restricted Fire Zone begins in the Umfreville Lake area of the Kenora District, runs northeast to Sydney Lake and Longlegged Lake in the Red Lake District, circles northeast to Highway 105, south to the Chukuni River, then follows along the west shore of Pakwash Lake. The boundary continues south along Cabin Bay, Longlegged Lake, Overnight, Conifer Lake, Pakwash and English River roads, then west along the Sand Lake Road to Highway 525. The boundary circles north along the Whitedog Road, connecting with the beginning point of Umfreville Lake.

"We are asking local municipalities, aboriginal communities, tourist operators, the forest industry and the general public to cooperate in support of this important fire precaution," Mr. Wildman said.

.../2

fire zone - 2

Anyone with questions about the Restricted Fire Zone, or the area under restriction, should contact their nearest MNR district office.

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EDITORS: Please note a map of the fire zone area is attached.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dennis Wilson
Aviation, Flood and Fire Management Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-5776

Debbie MacLean
Northwestern Region Fire Centre - West Zone
DRYDEN (807) 937-4402

RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE (RFZ) AREA



Ministry of
Natural
Resources



WATER

1992 "RFZ" AREA



Ontario

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Natural
Resources

Ministère des
Richesses
naturelles



news release
communiqué

May 4, 1992

Minister Intends To Improve Trees Act To Give Municipalities More Power To Protect Trees

The Ministry of Natural Resources intends to improve the Trees Act to provide all municipalities with greater powers for conserving individual trees and woodlots in local communities.

As part of the process for revising the Act, Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today invited public comment on recommendations for changes to the provincial Trees Act that would give all municipalities the right to pass bylaws to control the destruction or removal of trees on private land.

"Municipalities have told us they need an Act with a broader mandate and more teeth," Mr. Wildman said. "A revised Trees Act should meet those needs and prompt local governments to work with the province to develop sustainable forestry strategies."

Mr. Wildman made the announcement at L'Amoreaux Park in Scarborough with students from the environmental studies courses at Bethune, L'Amoreaux and Macdonald collegiates. This year they will plant about 440 trees in the park. Bethune students planted more than 1,500 trees in the park last year. The announcement is one way MNR is recognizing National Forest Week, which runs from May 3 to May 9.

The Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee, established in 1990, has recommended the current Trees Act, which was passed in 1946, be replaced with a new one to allow all Ontario municipalities to pass local bylaws to control cutting, burning or other removal of all types of trees, on all sizes of lots under their jurisdiction.

The existing Act enables only counties, regions, districts and municipalities separated from a county, to pass and enforce bylaws for destruction of trees on private lands within their jurisdictions. However, the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, along with municipalities in northern Ontario and local municipalities such as towns, villages and area municipalities, currently have no legal grounds to control tree cutting on private land.

The committee's recommendations for changes to the Trees Act would enable all municipalities to require permits for cutting trees and allow them to issue stop-work orders. The maximum fine for unauthorized tree cutting would increase to \$500,000 from \$5,000. A broader Act would include woodlots of all sizes, windbreaks and single shade trees. Changes would also provide the public with an appeal process, as well as opportunities to provide input into the development of local bylaws.

The Trees Act review was conducted by the Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee, and is part of MNR's Private Woodlands Strategy, a project under the province's Sustainable Forestry Program. The committee was appointed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, with representatives from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Public consultation is the next step in the review process.

The Committee's recommendations recognize the importance of having a Trees Act that reflects current economic and social needs and concerns. The role of education, information, technical assistance and financial incentives in helping develop municipal woodland strategies was also raised by the group, which began its review in September 1990.

"The environmental, social and economic benefits of trees extend beyond property boundaries and are available to the community, not just the landowner," said Mr. Wildman. "Therefore, the province, along with landowners and members of the community, should work together to ensure sustainable forestry on both a large and small scale."

MNR has published *Before You Cut That Tree*, a tabloid which outlines the Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee's recommendations, and provides readers with some points to consider should they wish to comment on the recommendations. Ministry staff will widen the public consultation program across Ontario this spring.

Copies of *Before You Cut That Tree* are available at MNR district offices and the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1553. Comments should be sent by June 19, 1992, to the Manager, Private Land Forestry Section, Ministry of Natural Resources, Suite 400, 70 Foster Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6V5.

- 30 -

Editors: A fact sheet on the recommended changes to the Trees Act is available.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

Alec Denys
Forest Policy Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6618



May 8, 1992

Quota For Yellow Perch Decreased For 1992 on Lake Erie

The 1992 commercial fishing quota for yellow perch on Lake Erie has been set at 4.9 million pounds, 400,000 pounds above last year's actual harvest, Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman announced today.

In 1991, the quota for yellow perch — one of the most important commercial fish species on Lake Erie — was set at 7.9 million pounds. However, the commercial industry harvested only 56 per cent of that quota.

"We continue to have concerns about the status of yellow perch this year," said Mr. Wildman. "Our concern about the long-term sustainability of this important resource and the commercial fisheries that depend on yellow perch were carefully considered before setting this year's quota."

The 1992 yellow perch quota for the Essex quota area is 35 per cent of the 1991 quota. For the Kent quota area, it is 75 per cent of last year, and for the Elgin East quota area it is 65 per cent of the 1991 quota.

Mr. Wildman also announced increases in quota for walleye, rainbow smelt and whitefish, but a decrease in quota for white bass.

The 1992 walleye quota will be increased by 10 per cent to 6.8 million pounds with the increase applied equally across the three quota areas.

"The 1992 smelt quota will be increased by five per cent to 21.8 million pounds," Mr. Wildman said. "The three-year, co-operative smelt study in eastern Lake Erie that was initiated last year will provide us with additional information on rainbow smelt. The results from the smelt study and work done through international task groups over the next few years will help us set quotas in the future."

The 1992 whitefish quota will be increased by 35 per cent, which represents an average increase of 1,050 pounds per licence. There are indications that several good year-classes have been produced in recent years and this amount of fish can be safely harvested.

lake erie quota - 2

For white bass, the 1992 quota is being reduced by 10 per cent. In 1991, the harvest was only 33 per cent of the quota.

Mr. Wildman and ministry officials met last month with liaison committees from the commercial industry and sport fishery and representatives from the Canadian Auto Workers Union, Marine Division, to discuss the status of fish stocks and the implications of this year's quota levels.

"A number of fisheries management issues were raised during our meetings in April," said Mr. Wildman. "A committee will be formed to review regulations and other matters, and we'll be anxious to hear their recommendations on ensuring the viability of both the commercial and sport fisheries."

- 30 -

Editors: A fact sheet on quotas and status of stocks is included with this release.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Cooper
Ministry of Natural Resources
LONDON (519) 661-2730



May 11, 1992

Results Released on 1991/92 Deer and Moose Harvest In Algonquin Area

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman and Chief Clifford Meness of the Golden Lake Algonquin First Nation indicated today that they are pleased with the statistics on Algonquin hunting pursuant to the 1991/92 interim hunting agreement.

The one-year interim agreement, signed in October 1991, identifies areas, in the lands they claim as their traditional territory, in which Algonquin people would hunt deer and moose for food, social and ceremonial purposes, while ensuring that the hunt remains within biologically sustainable limits. The Algonquins' land claim area covers approximately 14,000 square miles of land within the Ottawa River watershed and includes much of Algonquin Park.

"The results of the hunt clearly show that both the province and the Algonquins are committed to conservation of wildlife and preservation of the values of Algonquin Park," Mr. Wildman said.

"We set out to develop an agreement that would address the issue of an Algonquin hunt and that would also ensure that there would be minimal interference with the public's ability to enjoy hiking, camping and canoeing in the park," said Mr. Wildman. "The experience of the interim hunting agreement shows that both parties have been able to meet those goals."

"We have a deep respect for the land, which has sustained us for thousands of years," said Chief Meness. "Our Algonquin laws are based on that respect, and we continue to abide by the principle of placing conservation, and respect for the natural world, ahead of human consumption. These results clearly show that the hunting activity was not a threat to either the wildlife or the recreational use of the park."

The 1991/92 interim hunting agreement identified maximum harvest limits for the Algonquin hunt of 175 deer and 100 moose. The 34 deer and 47 moose actually taken by Algonquins were well below those limits.

"If we were going to allow any error in this first year of working with Ontario, we wanted to err in favor of the moose and deer," said Chief Meness.

A co-ordinating committee, created pursuant to the interim hunting agreement, was responsible for monitoring the results of the hunt. The co-ordinating committee report on the hunt indicates:

- of the 13,599 deer taken in the 1991/92 hunting season in the entire land claim area – the Algonquins harvested 34, and 29 of those were taken within the area identified in the agreement for an Algonquin hunt in the park. The Algonquin harvest was about a quarter of one per cent of the total hunt;

algonquin results - 2

- of the 410 moose taken in the entire land claim area in the 1991/92 season -- the Algonquins harvested 47 (11.5 per cent), of which 45 were within the area identified in the agreement for an Algonquin hunt in the park;
- the non-Algonquin harvest of moose and deer inside Algonquin Park, in a two-township hunting area in the south end of the park, was 164 deer and 47 moose, substantially larger than the total Algonquin harvest.

The co-ordinating committee report indicates that the total harvest within the park "did not jeopardize the stability of moose and deer populations." Aerial surveys by MNR indicate a stable, or slightly increased, moose herd from the 1991 population estimate.

The provisions of the interim hunting agreement identified the Algonquin deer and moose hunting limit and season from the fall to January, the hunting territory in the park, and restrictions on Algonquin use of all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, cars, trucks and motorboats within the park.

In arriving at the interim agreement, the province met with interested parties and several items received specific clarifications within the agreement as a result of those consultations. These items included restrictions on hunting in nature reserves, wilderness zones or historic zones, and protection for rare, threatened and endangered species, as well as wolves and loons.

The interim hunting agreement was preliminary to negotiations surrounding the Algonquin land claim. As part of the negotiation process, the parties undertook to develop interim hunting and fishing agreements. Negotiations continue on developing an interim fishing agreement. Any renewal of the interim hunting agreement will be subject to further negotiation and consultation.

"The co-ordinating committee's report bears out what we have been saying all along: our traditional food harvest is a tiny part of the total hunting activity in the area and has been able to co-exist safely with other users of the land," Chief Meness said. "Algonquin people are part of this land and in our conduct and our laws we will continue to behave respectfully with the natural world. We are pleased that the Government of Ontario is prepared to work with us to ensure that both conservation and safety are respected."

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EDITORS: The report of the Co-ordinating Committee is available by contacting Ernie Martelle, Algonquin Park (613) 637-2780 or Doug Benoit, Algonquin Golden Lake First Nation (613) 625-2397.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Shawn Murray
Minister's Office
TORONTO (416) 314-2301



Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

news release
communiqué

May 13, 1992

Alcohol Ban In Effect For The Opening Of The Provincial Parks Season

The Ministry of Natural Resources is reminding campers that once again an alcohol ban will be in effect at selected provincial parks across southern Ontario until May 18 -- Victoria Day. This is to provide park visitors with a quiet and enjoyable start to the 1992 camping season.

"Last year there were more than eight million visitors to Ontario's provincial parks. That represented a 10-per-cent increase over the attendance in 1990," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman. "We look forward to having another busy season in 1992."

Some parks have new facilities this year. This is part of the ministry's six-year, \$60-million parks revitalization program. Sleeping Giant Provincial Park has a new visitor centre, and new picnic shelters will be built at Sibbald Point Provincial Park. Many comfort stations and park offices have been renovated. In addition, Awenda and Presqu'île parks now have wheelchair accessible trails.

Last year, the ministry processed more than 117,000 campsite reservations. Most campers prefer to make reservations by telephone and arrange for payment by credit card. This year the reservation fee (\$4.50) is non-refundable for cancellations, but camping fees continue to be refundable.

Beginning May 15, taped information on campsite vacancies at 53 southern Ontario parks can be obtained by calling the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation's 24-hour toll-free number, 1-800-ONTARIO (668-2746) or, for Toronto callers, 314-0998.

The 1992 Ontario Provincial Parks Guide provides information on parks facilities, fees and campsite reservation services. The guide is available free to the public at provincial parks, MNR district offices, Ontario Travel Information Centres and the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1717. Collect calls are accepted.



.../2

alcohol ban - 2

Information about provincial parks is also available by calling the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation Ontario Travel toll-free numbers:

Canada and U.S.	English	1-800-668-2746
	French	1-800-268-3736

Metro Toronto Area	English	(416) 314-0944
	French	(416) 314-0956

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf T.D.D. (416) 314-6557

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bruce van Staalduinen
Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-1109

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2123

Editors Note: PROVINCIAL PARKS WITH AN ALCOHOL BAN (May 8 to 18):

Awenda	Long Point	Rondeau
Balsam Lake	MacGregor Point	Sandbanks
Bass Lake	McRae Point	Sauble Falls
Craigleith	Pinery	Serpent Mounds
Darlington	Point Farms	Sibbald Point
Earl Rowe	Port Burwell	Six Mile Lake
Emily	Presqu'ile	Turkey Point
Fitzroy	Rideau River	Wheatley
Ipperwash	Rock Point	



May 29, 1992

MNR Issues Emergency Area Order For A Fire Northwest Of Sudbury

An Emergency Area Order has been declared covering an entire township to the northwest of the Regional Municipality of Sudbury as a result of an extreme fire hazard and a major forest fire burning in the area.

Under the Emergency Area Order, the Minister of Natural Resources is empowered to take whatever action is deemed necessary to control the fire and protect human life and property values.

"We are concerned about the risks to public safety from the extreme burning conditions being projected for the next few days and the fire we're currently attacking," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman. "For those reasons I have declared an Emergency Area Order so that we are better able to protect the public and property."

The Emergency Area Order covers the entire township of Roberts, just northwest of the Town of Capreol. The order will remain in effect until the current extreme fire conditions improve. In addition, MNR's Sudbury District office has cancelled all burning permits until further notice.

"Right now, absolute caution must be exercised in the forest," Mr. Wildman said. "We are asking for the co-operation of the public in ensuring that no new fires are accidentally started."

The forecast through the weekend calls for extreme burning conditions in much of northeastern Ontario and down through the Huntsville area.

The major fire, called Sudbury Fire 23, was reported on Wednesday, May 27 approximately 30 kilometres from the centre of the Town of Capreol. Located on a hydro line, the fire increased on Thursday to about 400 hectares as a result of warm, dry conditions and gusting winds. Today, the fire has increased to 500 hectares and is being fanned by strong winds.

So far, 27 firefighting crews and a provincial fire team are assigned to the fire. Two MNR CL-215 heavy waterbombers along with two heavy waterbombers from the Northwest Territories are fighting the fire today in shifts.



emergency area order - 2

Ten fire crews from Dryden have been brought to Sudbury to respond to any new fire starts in the area.

So far this fire season, Ontario has incurred 350 fires, involving just less than 1,600 hectares. Currently, there are 19 active fires in the province, with only Sudbury Fire 23 posing any problems.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bob Thomas
Aviation, Flood and Fire Management
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-5776

Rob Janser
Regional Fire Management Centre
SUDBURY (705) 675-4120



May 29, 1992

MINISTER TO REVIEW REPORT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO QUETICO PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

An exemption that allows members of the Lac La Croix First Nation mechanized boat and canoe access to three additional lakes in Quetico Provincial Park will be extended for six months, Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman announced today.

The extension will allow the Minister time to consider and respond to recommendations in a report by the Ontario Provincial Parks Council on a proposal by the Lac La Croix First Nation to amend the Quetico Park Management Plan. The First Nation's proposal would, among other things, allow greater access to economic opportunities in the park for members of the First Nation.

The goal for the proposal is not to diminish Quetico's wilderness policy but rather to develop it in a fashion that recognizes the relationship between the Lac La Croix First Nation and the Quetico landscape.

"The more than 600 submissions received from interest groups, stakeholders and individuals clearly show the tremendous interest and concern for the future of Quetico Park," said Mr. Wildman. "I thank all those who took the time and effort to assist the Council in its deliberations."

The 250 members of the Lac La Croix First Nation live on an isolated reserve on the southwestern edge of Quetico Provincial Park, on the international boundary between Ontario and Minnesota. Employment is seasonal and restricted because of the area's isolation. Guiding visitors in Quetico Park is one of the few economic opportunities for the community.

Mechanized travel within Quetico Park was restricted when the park was declared a wilderness area in 1977. However, in 1979, members of the Lac La Croix First Nation were granted an exemption which allowed them limited access with motorized vehicles to several lakes within the park.

The exemption was extended several times including an extension in 1988 to allow the ministry to determine if there are economic alternatives for the Lac La Croix First Nation to using motorboats in Quetico.



amendment - 2

In May 1991, to improve the social and economic conditions of the Lac La Croix First Nation, the province agreed to the First Nation's use of motorboats of 10 horsepower or less on Cirrus, Jean and Conk lakes within Quetico Park. The agreement was for one year to allow time for the Ontario Provincial Parks Council to review the First Nation's proposed amendment.

The Ontario Provincial Parks Council is a citizens' advisory committee that advises the Minister of Natural Resources on matters related to Ontario's provincial parks.

The Minister is expected to respond to the Provincial Parks Council report within the next few months.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



June 2, 1992

Minister Announces Interministerial Team to Deal with Moose River Basin Issues

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced that the province has set up an interministerial team to deal with aboriginal concerns and resource development issues in the Moose River Basin.

Aboriginal, planning and development issues were outlined in a report on the consultations carried out in the basin by the provincial representative, David de Launay. The report was released April 28, 1992.

"The interrelationship of these issues makes it difficult for any single ministry to deal with all areas," said Mr. Wildman, who is also Minister Responsible for Native Affairs. "I am pleased with the high degree of co-operation that the ministries of the interministerial team have already shown. This co-operation will help ensure the success of the province's efforts in the Moose River Basin and on the James Bay coast."

The establishment of the interministerial team is a follow-up initiative to the government's announcement in April of its comprehensive approach in the basin. The team will be made up of:

- **Ralph Wheeler**, co-ordinator, outdoor recreation supervisor, Kapuskasing district office, MNR;
- **Peggy Gale**, assessment officer, Ontario Hydro plan, Ministry of the Environment regional office, Sudbury;
- **Dave Shaw**, community economic development economist, Highway 11 area office, Timmins, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines;
- **Bill Taylor**, policy advisor, Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat, Thunder Bay.

David de Launay will assist the team and the Moose River basin project in his new capacity as the executive assistant to Mr. Wildman.



The interministerial team will carry out the initiatives the province has adopted regarding the Moose River basin. The initiatives are based on the recommendations of the consultation report. They commit the province to making progress in six key areas:

- establishing aboriginal self-government in the Moose River Basin once a Nishnawbe-Aski Nation framework agreement is in place;
- establishing on-going discussion between aboriginal and non-aboriginal residents of the basin;
- developing, over time, an assessment of the cumulative impacts on the environment of development in the basin;
- co-ordinating and initiating government and private sector economic development initiatives, including joint ventures with First Nations;
- addressing aboriginal grievances about past development in the basin; and
- developing specific measures to deal with Ontario Hydro's proposal to redevelop the Mattagami Complex of four generating stations on the Mattagami River and with two separate proposals from the private sector to develop small hydro plants.

In addition, the overall government work in the basin will continue to be co-ordinated by an interministerial committee, chaired by David Balsillie, assistant deputy minister, policy division for MNR. Representatives from the ministries of Energy, the Environment, Northern Development and Mines, Treasury, Tourism and Recreation, and Municipal Affairs, the Native Affairs Secretariat, Cabinet Office, and the Premier's Office will make up the committee.

"The consultations by the provincial representative demonstrated that communications are key to meeting the needs of all the residents of the basin," said Mr. Wildman. "We plan to produce a newsletter that will regularly keep area residents informed and will help promote discussion on the major issues of aboriginal concerns, the environment, resource development and planning."

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

Ralph Wheeler
Moose River Basin Initiatives Co-ordinator
KAPUSKASING (705) 335-6191



June 8, 1992

**MNR Launches Fourth Year Of
Experimental Rabies Control Program in Metropolitan Toronto**

The Ministry of Natural Resources will distribute 10,500 rabies-vaccine baits from June 8 to June 19, throughout major ravine systems of the Greater Toronto area. The baits contain rabies vaccine and will be placed near fox dens.

This is the fourth year of an experimental program designed to vaccinate wild foxes against rabies in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

The ministry's goal is to eradicate rabies in Ontario by immunizing foxes and skunks, the primary carriers of wildlife rabies in the province. This successful experimental program has, in the past three years, protected more than 70 per cent of foxes against rabies. As a result, there have been no reported cases of fox rabies in Metropolitan Toronto in the last two years.

Baits will not be dropped near residential areas, schools or playgrounds. Each bait features a label that reads "Rabies Vaccine, DO NOT EAT." Foxes are immunized when they eat the mixture of chicken-scented beef tallow and rabies vaccine.

As in past years, MNR is asking Metro residents not to touch the baits. The vaccine is not harmful to humans or to other animals. However, it will not protect other animals from rabies, so pet owners should ensure that their pets are properly vaccinated against rabies.

MNR research scientists will monitor the effectiveness of the program by examining tooth and blood samples gathered from dead animal carcasses or live animals which have been caught and released.

The target of the present effort are cubs born this year and foxes that moved into the Metro area from surrounding regions.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rick Rosatte
Wildlife Research Section
MAPLE (416) 832-7154

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2123





Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

news release communiqué

Le 8 juin 1992

Quatrième année du programme expérimental du MRN contre la rage dans la communauté urbaine de Toronto

Du 8 au 19 juin, le ministère des Richesses naturelles placera 10 500 appâts contenant un vaccin antirabique près de renardières, dans les principaux ravins de la région du Grand Toronto.

Il s'agit de la quatrième année d'un programme expérimental visant à vacciner les renards sauvages contre la rage dans la communauté urbaine de Toronto.

Le but du ministère est d'éliminer la rage en Ontario en immunisant les renards et les mouffettes, principaux porteurs de la rage dans la province. Ce programme, au cours des trois dernières années, a permis de protéger plus de 70 pour 100 des renards de la Communauté urbaine de Toronto contre la rage. En conséquence, aucun cas de rage n'a été signalé dans cette région dans les deux dernières années.

Les appâts ne seront pas placés près des zones résidentielles, des écoles et des terrains de jeu. Chaque appât porte l'étiquette «Vaccin antirabique - NE PAS MANGER». Les renards sont immunisés une fois qu'ils ingèrent un des cubes de suif de boeuf aromatisé au poulet et dissimulant un vaccin.

Comme par les années passées, nous demandons au public de ne pas manipuler les appâts. Le vaccin est sans danger pour les êtres humains et les autres animaux. Toutefois, un animal familier qui avale un appât n'en est pas pour autant vacciné contre la rage. Il appartient à son maître ou à sa maîtresse de le faire vacciner par un vétérinaire.

Les chercheurs du MRN vérifieront l'efficacité du programme de vaccination en analysant des échantillons de sang et de dents prélevés sur des animaux capturés puis relâchés, ainsi que sur des carcasses d'animaux morts.

Le projet actuel vise particulièrement les jeunes renardeaux nés cette année, ainsi que les renards qui se sont nouvellement établis dans la Communauté urbaine.

- 30 -

EDITOR'S NOTE: English version available.

SOURCES :

Rick Rosatte
Section de recherche des services
de recherche sur la faune
MAPLE (416) 832-7154

Michel Payen-Dumont
Direction des services de communications
TORONTO (416) 314-2106



Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

news release communiqué

Publication

CASON
NR
-NDS

June 8, 1992

MEDIA ADVISORY

The Ministry of Natural Resources is issuing this advisory as a reminder that the deadline for public comment on the draft report entitled Fishing and Hunting Licence Review is Friday, June 12, 1992.

Members of the public who have a copy of the report are encouraged to submit their comments to the Director, Fisheries Policy Branch, 90 Sheppard Avenue East, North York, Ontario M2N 3A1.

Public participation in this process is important. All responses received will be considered before any changes to the current system are made.

A final report will be prepared by August 1992.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Karen Arnone
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2096

Mark Muschett
Fisheries Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-1158





Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

news release
communiqué

Le 8 juin 1992

Avis aux médias

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles tient à rappeler aux membres du public intéressés à soumettre leurs commentaires sur l'ébauche du rapport intitulé *Révision des permis de chasse et de pêche*, que la date limite est vendredi 12 juin 1992.

On encourage les membres du public qui ont consulté le rapport à soumettre leurs remarques au directeur des politiques des pêches, 90, avenue Sheppard est, North York (Ontario) M2N 3A1.

La participation du public est importante à la bonne marche de ce processus. Toutes les réponses seront examinées avant qu'aucun changement ne soit apporté au système dans sa forme actuelle.

Un rapport final sera publié en août 1992.

-30-

Editor's note : English version available.

Sources :

Michel Payen-Dumont
Direction des services de communications
TORONTO (416) 314-2106

Mark Muschett
Direction des politiques des pêches
TORONTO (416) 314-1158



June 9, 1992

MNR Lifts Emergency Area Order

The Ministry of Natural Resources has lifted the Emergency Area Order for Roberts Township, northwest of the Regional Municipality of Sudbury.

The Emergency Area Order was declared on May 29, due to the extreme fire hazard and major fire, known as Sudbury Fire Number 23, in the area just northwest of Capreol. The Order allowed the Ministry of Natural Resources to take steps necessary to protect human life and property.

"As a result of an aggressive attack by firefighters and support staff, Sudbury Fire Number 23 was successfully contained," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman. "At its peak, the fire was engaged by 55 crews, two CL-215 heavy waterbombers, seven helicopters and several support staff."

The Sudbury fire started on May 27 and grew to 2,000 hectares.

MNR fire management staff in Sudbury have classified the fire as under control. At present, 23 ground crews are working inside the fire perimeter to ensure that all traces of fire above and below the surface have been extinguished. This work, necessary to prevent any smoldering areas from re-igniting, will continue for several more days until MNR crews have located and completely extinguished all areas.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dennis Wilson
Aviation, Flood and Fire Management
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-5776

Rob Janser
Regional Fire Management Centre
SUDBURY (705) 675-4120





Le 9 juin 1992

Le MRN annule l'ordonnance de zone sinistrée

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles a annulé l'ordonnance de zone sinistrée qui avait été émise pour le canton de Roberts, au nord-ouest de la municipalité régionale de Sudbury.

Cette ordonnance avait été émise le 29 mai dernier en raison des risques extrêmes et d'un incendie important, connu sous le vocable de « Sudbury 23 » qui sévit dans la région au nord-ouest de Capreol. L'ordonnance a permis au ministère des Richesses naturelles de prendre les mesures voulues pour protéger les vies humaines et les biens menacés.

« Grâce à des mesures énergiques, les pompiers et le personnel d'appui ont contenu les flammes du Sudbury 23 », a déclaré Bud Wildman, ministre des Richesses naturelles. « Au pire de cet incendie, 55 équipes de pompiers, deux avions-citernes CL-215, sept hélicoptères et du personnel d'appui étaient engagés dans la lutte contre les flammes. »

Le feu de Sudbury s'est déclaré le 27 mai et a couvert jusqu'à 2000 hectares.

Le personnel du service de gestion des incendies de Sudbury a classé le feu comme étant maintenant maîtrisé. À l'heure actuelle, 23 équipes au sol travaillent à l'intérieur du périmètre d'incendie afin de garantir que toutes les traces de feu, tant au-dessus du sol que sous la surface, ont été éteintes. Ce travail, qui est essentiel pour qu'aucune flamme nouvelle ne surgisse, se poursuivra encore pendant plusieurs jours, jusqu'à ce que les équipes du MRN aient trouvé tous les secteurs en feu et les aient éteint.

-30-

Editor's note : English version available.

Sources :

Robert Naud
Communications
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6625



June 11, 1992

Province Extends Consultation Deadline on Recommendations To Give Municipalities More Power To Protect Trees

The Ministry of Natural Resources has extended the deadline for consultation on recommendations for changes that would amend the Trees Act by three and a half months.

Last month, Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman announced that the province proposes to improve the Trees Act to provide all municipalities, that choose to pass bylaws, with greater powers for conserving individual trees and woodlots in their communities.

As part of the process for revising the Act, Mr. Wildman announced a consultation process on the recommendations for changes, proposed by a joint provincial/municipalities committee and invited public comments. The minister today announced that the deadline for completing this consultation process is extended to September 30, 1992 from June 19.

"Public consultation is a key element in the development of a new Trees Act," Mr. Wildman said. "There has been such a great deal of interest from the public and from municipalities that I have extended the deadline for consultation in order to allow sufficient time to accommodate this interest. I appreciate the responses to date and want to assure the many landowners who have raised the issue of government interference with private property that we will proceed fairly in relation to all interests."

"I am pleased that Mr. Wildman is extending the consultation on the Trees Act," said Elmer Buchanan, Minister of Agriculture and Food. "These are important issues to farmers, and this extension will give them time to consider and respond to the recommendations."

Among other matters, MNR would like to hear public comment on:

- whether unorganized municipalities should be covered by the Act;
- how will private forests logged by contractors be addressed;
- how will farmers or landowners managing their own woodlots be treated; and
- how to balance private property rights and community needs.

The recommendations for changes suggest that any regulations passed under a local bylaw should not unduly restrict the normal use and enjoyment of property and the administration of the bylaw should not be onerous for property owners. The recommendations also state that there should be opportunities through a hearing process for public input into the development of local bylaws.

"There are many issues we want the public to address before we move ahead with developing final recommendations on a new Act," Mr. Wildman said. "Through public consultation, we want to hear more about landowners' concerns about property rights and other matters so we can adequately address these issues prior to proceeding with changes to the Act."

Under the recommended changes, municipalities would not be required to pass a tree bylaw, but they could develop unique bylaws tailored to their communities. The recommendations for changes to the Trees Act were developed by the Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee which was established in 1990. The committee was appointed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, with representation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

The committee has recommended the current Trees Act, which was passed in 1946, be replaced with a new one that would allow all Ontario municipalities the opportunity to pass local bylaws to control cutting, burning or other removal of all types of trees, on all sizes of lots under their jurisdiction.

This recommendation would extend the coverage of the existing Act which, at present, enables only counties, regions, districts and municipalities that are separated from a county, to pass and enforce bylaws for destruction of trees on private lands within their jurisdictions. The advisory committee has also recommended changes to:

- enable all municipalities to require permits for cutting trees;
- allow municipalities to issue stop-work orders for cutting trees;
- increase the maximum fine for unauthorized tree cutting to \$500,000 from \$5,000;
- broaden the Act to include woodlots of all sizes, windbreaks and single shade trees;
- provide the public with an uncomplicated appeal process;

"These recommendations for changes to the Trees Act provide a focal point for discussing changes to the Act that will allow all municipalities to develop tree bylaws that reflect the needs of their communities while protecting this valuable environmental, social and economic resource," said Mr. Wildman.

To help focus the consultation process, MNR has published *Before You Cut That Tree*, a tabloid which outlines the Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee's recommendations, and provides readers with some points to consider should they wish to comment on the recommendations.

Public consultation on the recommendations is being conducted through such mechanisms as public meetings, the tabloid and direct mail. For information on how consultation is being undertaken in specific areas, please contact MNR district offices or check local newspapers.

Copies of *Before You Cut That Tree* are available at MNR district offices and the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1553. Comments should be sent by September 30, 1992, to the Manager, Private Land Forestry Section, Ministry of Natural Resources, Suite 400, 70 Foster Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6V5.

- 30 -

EDITORS: Please note a fact sheet on the recommended changes to the Trees Act is available.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

Alec Denys
Forest Policy Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6618



June 1992

Recommendations for Changes to the Trees Act

The Ministry of Natural Resources has extended the deadline for public consultation on changes that have been recommended to the province's Trees Act to September 30, 1992. In May, MNR announced that it proposes to improve the Trees Act to provide all municipalities with greater powers for conserving individual trees and woodlots in local communities.

A Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee has recommended changes to the Act that would give municipalities the right to pass bylaws to control the destruction or removal of trees on private land.

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman has invited public comment on the advisory committee's recommendations before MNR develops proposals for changing the Act. MNR has published *Before You Cut That Tree*, a tabloid which outlines the recommendations of the advisory committee, and provides readers with some points to consider should they wish to comment on them. **Please submit your comments by the new deadline of September 30, 1992.**

The ministry is also seeking public comment on such issues as:

- whether unorganized municipalities should be covered by the provisions of a new Act;
- how will private forests logged by contractors be addressed;
- how will farmers or landowners managing their own woodlots be treated;
- how to balance private property rights and community needs; and
- which recommendations the public supports.

The recommendations for changes suggest that any regulations passed under a local bylaw should not unduly restrict the normal use and enjoyment of property and the administration of the bylaw should not be onerous for property owners. In addition, under the recommended changes, municipalities would not be required to pass a tree bylaw and they could create a bylaw tailored to their needs.

Formal review of the Trees Act began in 1990 when MNR and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) established the Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee. The committee was composed mainly of AMO representatives, with representation from MNR and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The committee's recommendations include:

- **Extending to all municipalities the right to pass tree-cutting bylaws.** Currently only counties, regions and districts, and municipalities that are separated from the county, are covered by the Act. Metropolitan Toronto, municipalities in northern Ontario, area municipalities, and other local municipalities such as towns and villages have no control over tree cutting on private land.



- **Establishing a framework to address the overlapping jurisdiction between municipalities.**
The committee recommends that counties, regions and other district municipalities, also known as upper-tier municipalities, be given control only over stands of one hectare or more, and that towns, villages, and other local municipalities be granted control over smaller stands, windbreak, and single trees. Where an upper-tier municipality does not exist, the local municipality could pass bylaws relating to stands of one hectare or more.
- **Increasing the maximum fine to \$500,000 from \$5,000, and granting municipalities the right to require cutting permits, issue stop-work orders, and to issue tree protection orders.**
- **Removing all exemptions from the act.** The Act would include a definition of "good forestry practice." All municipalities would be provided with the ability to include their own exemptions in their bylaws. This would make local tree-cutting bylaws consistent with the province's emphasis on an ecosystem approach to forest management. A revised Act would also address a wider range of woodlot management practices, including harvesting, road building and renewal.
- **Providing for greater co-operation between municipalities and the province through:**
 - training programs for tree bylaw enforcement officers
 - assisting municipalities in developing and enforcing bylaws
 - a public education program for community use.
- **Introducing an uncomplicated appeal process.** When developing guidelines for the appeal process, the ministry will address such questions as:
 - How can interested parties appeal a decision?
 - What defines an "interested party"? Who would be entitled to appeal a bylaw or permit?
 - How can long and expensive conflicts be avoided?
 - Who will be involved in settling disputes?

Copies of *Before You Cut That Tree* are available from MNR district offices and the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1553.

Public consultation on the recommendations is being conducted through such mechanisms as public meetings, the tabloid and direct mail. For information on how consultation is being undertaken in specific areas, please contact MNR district offices or check local newspapers.

Comments and questions about the Trees Act and the advisory committee's recommendations for changes to it should be sent to Mr. Alec Denys, Manager, Private Land Forestry Section, Ministry of Natural Resources, Suite 400, 70 Foster Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6V5. **Deadline for public input is September 30, 1992.**

(Note: Comments submitted will become part of the public record while the Minister of Natural Resources considers amendments to the Trees Act. Comments will be made available for public review upon request, unless privacy is requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act. If you require that your name, address and comments not be made public, please indicate. This information is collected under the authority of the Ministry of Natural Resources Act, Section 2.)



July 3, 1992

MNR Announces New Formula to Moderate Rent Increases for Recreation Lots On Crown Land

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced a new formula for moderating proposed rent increases for private leases and other rentals of Crown land.

The new rent formula will apply to a wide range of private leases, including: recreation camps, such as fishing or hunting camps, which are popular in northern and central Ontario; summer resort leases; and cottage leases in provincial parks.

"This new formula will moderate the rent increases leaseholders were facing up to now," Mr. Wildman said. "Proposed rent increases up to now have reflected the idea that rent for private leases on Crown land should be developed from the market value of those properties and that could have lead to significant increases for some lease holders."

The principle under this market-value policy is that rent should be between five and 10 per cent of the market value of a property. MNR adopted the market value approach in 1983. Since then the ministry has been moving towards implementation of market value rents for Crown land tenancies, including leases for cottage lots in provincial parks and more recently recreation camps as well.

"In recent years, the increases in rent payments needed to achieve market value have been relatively moderate," Mr. Wildman said. "This year, we have had new market-value assessments made on high-value leases. In some cases, average rent increases of as much as 200 or 300 per cent were proposed and increases in a few cases exceeded 600 per cent to reach a market value rent."

"We have decided to moderate the rate of increase in order to avoid causing any economic hardship to renters," Mr. Wildman said.

The new formula for moderating rents calls for yearly increases of 15 per cent or \$100, whichever is greater until the rent based on market value is achieved.

The change will be retroactive and apply to rent adjustments made since September 1990, which means that in some cases leaseholders will receive a credit for the rent they have paid the province in excess of this formula.

Technically, in terms of the province's market value policy, this change means that the province will forgive a portion of the rent increase that would have applied to a lease had it gone ahead with achieving market value immediately.

The new formula for moderating increases will not apply when a lease changes hands. In that situation, the rent will be set for the new tenant at between five and 10 per cent of the market value.

Some broad examples illustrate how this formula for moderating rent increases will apply. In Algonquin and Rondeau provincial parks about 600 private leaseholders faced average increases that could have raised rent to \$4,000 a year from the current rent of \$1,000. Now, these rents will increase to \$1,150 for the first year of the new lease and at the rate of 15 per cent in each subsequent year.

In northern Ontario, the leaseholders of about 1,500 hunting and fishing camps and similar types of recreation camps have already had rents increase to \$500, \$750 or even \$900 a year from about \$100 a year. Now, the increase in these cases will generally be about \$100 a year from September 1990. In these cases, the tenants will receive a credit for the extra rent they have paid up to now. That credit will be applied to future rent payments.

For all the private leases and other rentals of Crown land, rents will be re-evaluated every five years in most cases and properties will again be re-appraised to determine the market value. That new market value figure will be used in determining the future rent for the property.

"By offering tenants this staged approach to increasing rents, we are also providing them an opportunity to plan their household budgets so they can prepare for subsequent increases," Mr. Wildman said.

"I am pleased to be able to announce today this approach to moderating the rate of rent increase on Crown leases and to provide leaseholders with a fair and reasonable formula for setting rent increases."

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

John Cameron
Public Lands Policy
TORONTO (416) 314-1966



July 3, 1992

jobsOntarioCapital to Create Northern Jobs, Wildman Announces

jobsOntarioCapital Fund is spending more than \$8 million and creating about 645 seasonal jobs immediately in northern Ontario forests, parks, and services for the disabled.

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman made the announcement at a news conference in Sudbury today at which a wide range of jobsOntarioCapital projects for northern Ontario were announced.

"These projects will put more northern Ontarians to work and support development of a more productive economy," Mr. Wildman said.

"The province has chosen projects that can be up and running quickly so that there are immediate benefits to working people and communities."

Under jobsOntarioCapital, the province will spend \$474,000 creating 74 jobs to replace water, sewage and waste systems in 17 northern provincial parks. In total this year, Ontario will spend \$1.2 million creating 192 jobs to replace water, sewage and waste water systems in 24 parks.

jobsOntarioCapital will spend \$633,000 creating 157 jobs to improve barrier-free access in 22 northern parks. This initiative will improve facilities for campers and day visitors with disabilities. Improved facilities will include wheelchair accessible administrative offices, comfort stations, interpretive exhibits, and self-guided nature trails.

This year, jobsOntarioCapital will spend \$1.5 million creating 273 jobs to improve barrier-free access in 43 parks across the province.

In addition, jobsOntarioCapital will spend more than \$1.9 million dollars creating about 45 jobs to improve waste management sites in about 70 locations across northern Ontario. More than 90 per cent of the funding for this initiative will be spent in the north.

While waste management is normally a municipal responsibility, MNR maintains waste-management sites in a number of unorganized northern townships. This project will help ensure that these waste management sites meet the Ministry of the Environment's new environmental protection standards so they can be safely closed or divested to local authorities.

more...

JobsOntarioCapital - 2

Last week, Mr. Wildman announced that JobsOntarioCapital is spending an additional \$6 million on forest renewal this year creating 435 jobs. Of this total, about \$5.1 million will create about 370 additional jobs in northern Ontario.

About \$3 million of the forestry allocation will go to creating 221 jobs to prepare sites for tree planting next year. About 8,750 hectares of land will be prepared for planting 16 million seedlings.

Another \$2 million of forestry funding under JobsOntarioCapital has already been allocated, creating 148 jobs to plant nine million seedlings on nearly 5,000 hectares of land in the north.

These forestry initiatives will contribute to the environmental sustainability of Ontario's forests and to the economic renewal of the province.

JobsOntarioCapital is a five-year, \$2.3-billion initiative, announced in the 1992 budget, to support job creation and economic restructuring, to promote community and social progress, and to preserve the environment.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
MNR Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

Ontario

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communiqué

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July 18, 1992

Ontario Proclaims Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route

Two hundred years after crossing the province on his way to becoming the first European to travel across continental North America, Alexander Mackenzie has received a special tribute from the Province of Ontario.

In a ceremony held today in Lake Superior Provincial Park to honor Mackenzie's achievement, Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman officially recognized and proclaimed the 2,400-kilometre Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route through Ontario.

"The Ontario portion of the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route passes through a total of 43 provincial parks. It connects many different protected areas -- from historical, wilderness and waterway parks to recreation and natural environment parks and nature reserves -- with a notable and recognizable historical theme," Mr. Wildman said.

Mackenzie, who came to Canada from Scotland to work for the Montreal-based Northwest Company, twice set out from Fort Chipewyan in northern Alberta in search of a convenient sea route to the Pacific -- the elusive Northwest Passage.

On his first journey, in 1789, Mackenzie followed the Dehcho River, later known as the Mackenzie River, all the way to the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Three years later, in 1792-93, Mackenzie travelled south and west along the Peace River and across the Great Divide. He reached the Pacific coast on July 22, 1793 -- some 13 years ahead of the Lewis and Clark expedition in the United States. Mackenzie published his *Voyages* in 1801, and was knighted a year later for his pioneering efforts.

"Sir Alexander Mackenzie's explorations helped to connect Canada from coast to coast, and sea to sea. His courage and determination, and that of his French-speaking and aboriginal companions, show what Canadians can achieve together by working toward a common goal," Mr. Wildman said.

more...

Mackenzie route - 2

Today's ceremony was held on Parks Day in Canada, the theme of which this year is "Canada's Parks: Celebrate Our Heritage." Mr. Wildman read the official proclamation at Agawa Bay, on the shore of Lake Superior -- a well-known campsite for early fur traders, and one of the Mackenzie's possible stopovers on his historic journey west.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

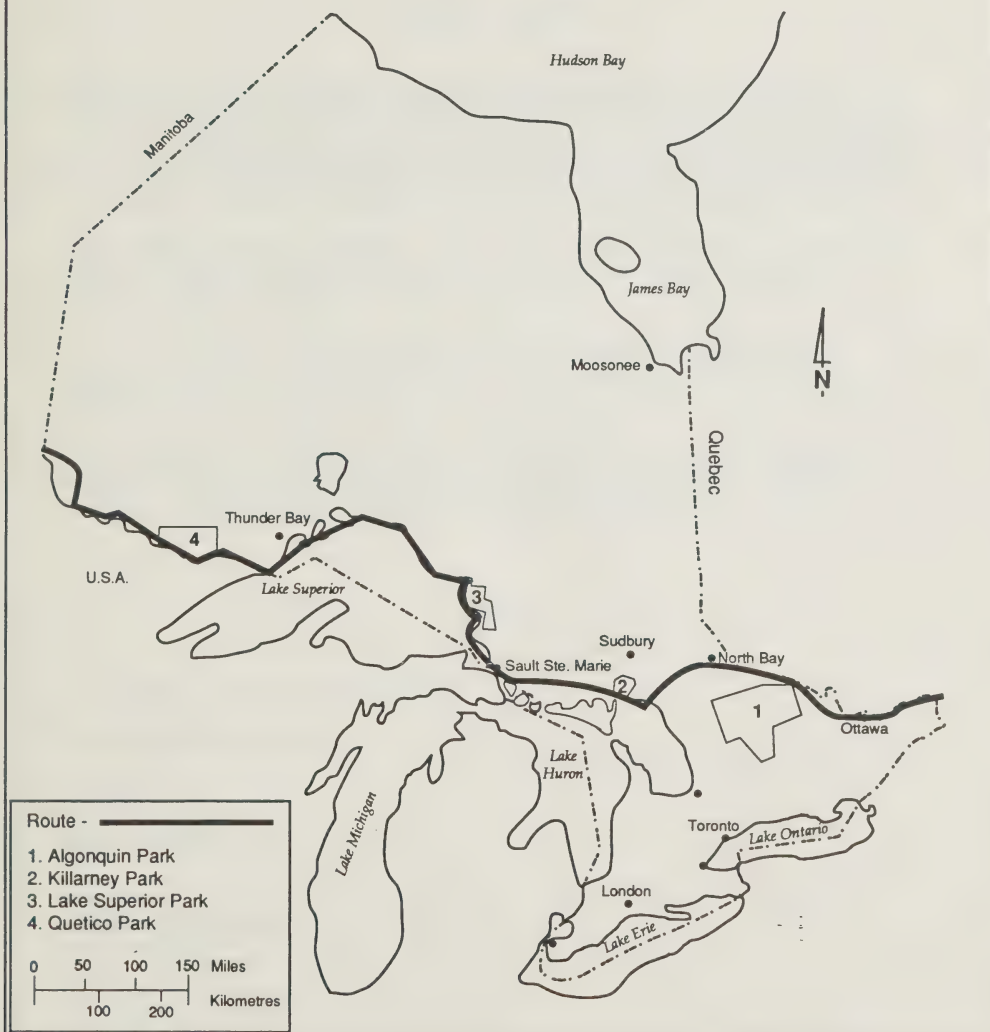
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bryan Howard
Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Areas Policy Branch
NORTH YORK (416) 314-1092

Gary Forma
Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Areas Policy Branch
NORTH YORK (416) 314-1122

Gary Babcock
Lake Superior Provincial Park
WAWA (705) 856-2284

Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route





CASON
NR
- N25

July 24, 1992

Media Advisory

Game Wardens: A Short History of Ontario's Conservation Officers now is available. The book, a special project to mark the centennial of Ontario's Conservation Officers, recounts the role and experiences of conservation officers over the past 100 years. It is an educational and entertaining collection of anecdotes, interviews with Ministry of Natural Resources staff, and photographs from national, MNR, and Ontario archives and family photo scrapbooks.

Game Wardens provides a chronology of major events relating to Conservation Officers and outlines the contributions they have made in fulfilling MNR's mandate to preserve and protect the natural environment.

The book was written by freelance writer Joe Fisher. Retired conservation officers Carl Monk and John Macfie provided significant historical information as well as the chapter entitled "Personal Reflections."

Game Wardens costs \$27.50 plus tax and can be obtained from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (Peterborough) (705) 748-6324, or from the Ontario Government Bookstore at either (416) 326-5300 or Toll free: 1-800-668-9938.

-30-

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tim Boyd
Operations Branch
(705) 728-2900

Jane Sirois
Compliance Policy Branch
(416) 314-1007





Le 23 juillet 1992

Avis aux média

Le livre intitulé *Les gardes-chasses : Des hommes et des femmes dévoués à la protection de la nature* est maintenant disponible. Publié dans le cadre d'un projet spécial pour souligner le centenaire des agents de protection de la nature, l'ouvrage décrit le rôle des agents et des agentes et raconte les expériences qu'ils et elles ont vécues au cours des cent dernières années. À la fois éducatif et divertissant, le livre est un recueil d'anecdotes et d'entrevues avec des employés du MRN, entremêlées de photos provenant des archives du MRN et des gouvernements du Canada et de l'Ontario, de même que d'albums-photos personnels.

L'ouvrage propose aussi un tableau chronologique des principaux événements qui ont marqué l'histoire des agents de protection de la nature, et souligne les contributions de ces derniers dans le cadre du mandat du MRN qui consiste à préserver et à protéger la nature.

Le livre a été écrit par l'écrivain Joe Fisher. Deux agents à la retraite, messieurs Carl Monk et John Macfie, ont fourni d'importants renseignements historiques et sont les auteurs du chapitre intitulé *Regard sur le passé*.

Les gardes-chasses est offert à 27,95 \$ (taxes en sus). On peut se le procurer en communiquant avec l'*Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters* (Peterborough) au (705) 748-6324, ou avec Publications Ontario, soit au (416) 326-5300 ou au 1-800-668-9938.

-30-

EDITOR'S NOTE: English version available.

SOURCES :

Tim Boyd
Direction des opérations
(705) 728-2900

Jane Sirois
Direction des politiques de l'observation des
lois
(416) 314-1007



June 24, 1992

Province To Protect Ontario's Wetlands Under Planning Act

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced a new protection measure for Ontario's wetlands.

Wetlands south of the Canadian Shield have been rapidly disappearing as a result of pressures from various kinds of development. It is estimated that more than 75 per cent of the original wetlands in southern Ontario have already been lost. In the north, some types of wetlands are relatively scarce and may be jeopardized by competing land uses.

"The provincial government attaches tremendous importance to conserving Ontario's wetlands for future generations," Mr. Wildman said. "We are therefore committed to taking strong action to protect this valuable resource before it is too late."

Wetlands are vital natural phenomena that must be protected if the environment is to be preserved for future generations. Wetlands sustain water quality and quantity and provide economic and social benefits that contribute to the high quality of life in Ontario.

The province is issuing the Wetlands Policy Statement under Section 3 of the Planning Act. The policy directs municipalities and planning authorities to identify and protect provincially significant wetlands.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dave Cooke, in announcing the policy in the legislature today, said it will give municipalities strong direction on the protection of Provincially Significant Wetlands.

Mr. Cooke said the policy takes effect on June 27, 1992, the day it appears in the Ontario Gazette.

The Wetlands Policy is intended to ensure that there will be no loss of provincially significant wetland functions in the Boreal Region of northern Ontario and no loss of provincially significant wetland functions or area in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region.

"Provincially significant wetlands" refer to those wetlands identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources through an evaluation system. The policy also encourages protection of all other wetlands by municipalities.

There has been extensive consultation in the development of the Wetlands Policy Statement. Individuals, interest groups, and professional organizations across the province, reviewed drafts of the policy in 1989, and again in 1991, and submitted their comments.

"The government is pleased with the assistance and the direction the people of Ontario have given in the development of this policy", Mr. Wildman said. "We have reviewed these comments. The policy I am announcing today addresses many of the concerns expressed by the Ontario public."

The Wetlands Policy will be jointly administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and will complement other existing policies under Section 3 of the Planning Act.

This policy is but one part of a comprehensive government program to protect wetlands in all areas of the province.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has been operating a wetland program for more than three decades. Under this program, wetlands are protected through a variety of means such as incentives for private landowners who preserve wetlands on their property, landowner agreements or, if necessary, acquisition.

Over the next few months, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs will consult with other ministries and interest groups to develop Wetlands Implementation Guidelines.

The guidelines will assist municipalities and planning boards in implementing the Policy Statement and will be issued by the two ministries in the fall.

Copies of the Wetlands Policy Statement and a fact sheet on the policy may be obtained from MNR district offices, Municipal Affairs field offices, and from the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-2225.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Doug Hagan
Ministry of Natural Resources Wildlife Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-1051

Heather Jamieson
Ministry of Natural Resources Corporate Policy and Planning
TORONTO (416) 314-1943

Curt Halen
Ministry of Municipal Affairs Land Use Policy Section
TORONTO (416) 585-6230



CADON
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-N22

July 27, 1992

Province Ends Logging, Proposes Improvements For Lake Superior Provincial Park

Logging will no longer be permitted in Lake Superior Provincial Park under the terms of a preliminary park management plan released today for public comment. Natural environment zones in the park will increase by 768 square kilometres.

The decision to end logging was made following a review of timber management in the park. The question of logging received wide public consultation.

"As no timber will now be cut in Lake Superior Provincial Park, the ministry will work with the two companies affected to ensure that the loss of this source of supply will not have any adverse long-term effects," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman. "Logging has not taken place in the park since 1989, and the addition to the park's natural environment zones will enhance the parks role for protection, heritage appreciation and recreation."

The planning document released today is a vision of the direction Lake Superior Provincial Park will take in the future, and the final plan will supersede the original master plan which went into effect in 1979. Responses on the draft plan are being sought and will be accepted up to September 30. Public meetings will be held in Wawa, Montreal River Harbour and Sault Ste. Marie in September.

Lake Superior Provincial Park is one of Ontario's largest at 1,556 square kilometres. It attracted more than 230,000 visitors last year, and anyone who has driven the Trans-Canada Highway between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay will remember its mountainous terrain, extensive mixed forests, rugged coastal region and scenic views of the world's second largest lake. With its impressive range of landscapes, plants and animals, the park contributes substantially to the ministry's objective to protect Ontario's natural heritage and biological diversity.

Developments being considered now include the construction of a new visitor centre. This would allow for improved interpretive programs for park visitors. An improvement in signage would increase travellers' awareness of the park as they drive the Trans-Canada Highway, and upgraded facilities in campgrounds will make campers' stays more comfortable.

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The park plan review, which began in April 1988, considered many options for different types of park use. The last phase of planning drew hundreds of comments which assisted MNR staff in developing management options to be addressed in the final stages of planning.

To receive a copy of the preliminary management plan or to provide comments, contact:
The Park Superintendent, Lake Superior Provincial Park, Box 1160, Wawa, Ontario,
P0S 1K0, telephone: (705) 856-2284.

-30-

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

For more information:

Gary Babcock
Lake Superior Provincial Park
WAWA (705) 856-2284

John Dadds
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2096



CASON
NR
- N25

July 28, 1992

Ontario and New York to Study Status of Food Source For Salmon and Trout on Lake Ontario

Ontario and New York will conduct a scientific review of the status of alewife, a main food source for trout and salmon in Lake Ontario.

The decision to conduct the scientific review was made after the United States Fish and Wildlife Service notified the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) that alewife populations in U.S. waters were showing signs of stress that warranted further study.

Fisheries officials from MNR, NYDEC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will discuss alewife populations with a panel of independent researchers.

"We want to work quickly with our partner agencies from New York to assess alewife populations because this species is a major food source for the salmon and trout fishery in Lake Ontario," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman.

The alewife is not native to Lake Ontario. This species, along with other exotics such as the sea lamprey, entered Great Lakes waters after the construction of shipping canals linking the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

There have been periodic die-offs of massive quantities of alewife in the past. Shorelines and beaches of Lake Ontario were fouled with alewife in the 1950s and '60s.

Pacific salmon were introduced to Lake Michigan in the mid-1960s as predators to suppress the abundant alewife population. Stocking of salmon and trout was expanded to Lake Ontario by New York and Ontario by the early 1970s. A successful inland fishery for pacific salmon and several trout species has been established, providing sport fishing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of anglers annually.

MNR and the two U.S. agencies jointly conduct assessments of Lake Ontario alewife populations. Stocking of salmon and trout has raised predation levels and reduced the abundance of Lake Ontario alewife.



alewife - 2

Alewife were expected to improve in condition or plumpness with a reduction in population because fewer fish would be sharing the same food sources. However, alewife have not followed this expectation. In addition, alewife spawned in 1990 have apparently survived poorly.

In the mid-1980s, Lake Michigan experienced a significant decline in alewife. The Lake Michigan situation alerted fisheries biologists to the possibility of a similar occurrence on Lake Ontario.

The panel of experts will look at a wide range of information, such as changes in nutrient loading in the lake, to evaluate the status of alewife. The panel is expected to report its findings in August. This report will provide important background information for future fisheries management planning for Lake Ontario.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phil Smith
Lake Ontario Manager
NAPANEE (613) 354-2173

John Dadds
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2096



Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
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August 27, 1992

Ontario and New York Report Confirms Changes in Status Of Food Source for Salmon and Trout on Lake Ontario

A scientific review has confirmed that there has been a reduction in Lake Ontario in adult alewife, a main food source for salmon and trout.

In its report, a panel of independent researchers also found reduced numbers of large smelt, another principal food source for salmon and trout. The panel was convened by MNR and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) in July, after the United States Fish and Wildlife Service notified the two agencies that alewife populations were showing signs of stress.

"In light of these findings on the status of alewife and smelt, the next step for MNR and the other resource management agencies is to jointly develop options for future management of the Lake Ontario fishery as quickly as possible," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman. "Extensive public consultation on options will be an important component of the decision-making process."

The panel's report found that the basic productivity of offshore waters of Lake Ontario has declined since the 1980s because of lower nutrient levels, primarily phosphorous. A decline in phosphorous reduces the amount of food, in the form of microscopic zooplankton, available for alewife and smelt. Alewife, in particular, have responded with classic symptoms of stress -- poor growth and poor survival of adults.

The report predicts that if current levels of predation continue, the populations of alewife and smelt will be driven lower and the survival and growth of predators, such as salmon and trout, would be reduced.

The report also suggests that the present demand for food by predators, including stocked salmon and trout species, likely exceeds the supply that can be sustained by prey species in Lake Ontario.

A summary of the technical panel's report on the status of Lake Ontario prey species is available from MNR's Lake Ontario Manager, Phil Smith, at 1 Richmond Boulevard, Napanee, Ontario K7R 3S3.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phil Smith
Lake Ontario Manager
NAPANEE (613) 354-2173

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095





Fact Sheet

Actualités

August 1992

Status of Alewife and Smelt in Lake Ontario

Alewife and smelt are the principal prey species used for food by predator fish, such as salmon and trout.

During the 1950s and 1960s, alewife populations increased dramatically and were prone to massive winter die-offs. Stocking of salmon and trout as predators to suppress an abundant alewife population was undertaken by New York and Ontario in Lake Ontario by the early 1970s. A successful inland fishery for Pacific salmon and several trout species has been established, providing sport fishing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of anglers annually.

A panel of scientists was convened by MNR and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) in July 1992 to review the status of alewife and smelt. In addition to representatives from provincial, federal and state agencies, the panel included scientists from the University of Toronto, Cornell University and the State University of New York at Syracuse. The review was set up after the United States Fish and Wildlife Service notified the two agencies that alewife populations were showing signs of stress. MNR and the two U.S. agencies jointly conducted assessments of Lake Ontario fish populations. In its report, the review panel found:

- total phosphorous in Lake Ontario has declined by 25 per cent since the 1980s and this has affected production of the main food source for alewife and smelt, zooplankton, which has declined in the upper water levels by 50 per cent;
- the abundance of alewife and smelt by weight has declined since the mid-1980s;
- alewife condition is poor (they have relatively low body weight for their length) and the growth of alewife in their second year has declined;
- salmon prefer larger alewife as prey; lake trout tend to select both large alewife and smelt;
- there has been a consistent trend toward fewer large alewife and smelt;
- the abundance of salmon and trout increased steadily during the early 1980s, probably peaking in 1986, and since then has remained high;
- this year, for the first time, small numbers of dead and dying salmon have been recovered from the lake bottom during routine surveys;
- the present demand for food by predators, including stocked salmon and trout species, likely exceeds the supply that can be sustained by prey species in Lake Ontario.





August 28, 1992

MNR and CWS Announce Measures to Protect Stocks of South James Bay Canada Geese

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service will implement changes this fall to hunting in 19 provincial wildlife management units, mainly in northern Ontario, to protect Canada Geese that breed on southern James Bay.

The measures are designed to reduce the harvest of southern James Bay geese in areas where there is significant hunting of these birds during migration. Since it is difficult for hunters to distinguish between southern James Bay geese and the slightly larger, and plentiful, giant Canada geese resident in southern Ontario, the protection measures will apply to hunting both types of geese.

The two agencies instituted measures to reduce the harvest last year because breeding of southern James Bay geese was unusually poor in 1990 and 1991. There has been some improvement in breeding in 1992, but not enough to produce a large recovery in their population. Therefore, further measures to protect these geese are being undertaken. Hunting restrictions may also be necessary next year since the southern James Bay goose population will take several years to recover.

The daily bag limit for all geese will be reduced to two geese from five and the possession limit will be reduced to four birds from 10 in all wildlife management units (WMU) affected by the changes.

In addition, the opening date for the goose hunting season in WMU 94, in the extreme southwest corner of the province, will be changed to October 13 from September 25. The largest harvest of southern James Bay geese in southern Ontario takes place in this management unit. Other areas of the south, where large numbers of resident, giant Canada geese occur, will not be affected by the change.

The other WMUs affected by these changes are: 23 to 32, which are north of Gogama to James Bay; 36 to 41 and 45, which are in the Gogama, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie area; and the portion of 1D that is designated by the CWS as the Hudson-James Bay district for waterfowl.

Few southern James Bay geese are harvested in central Ontario; therefore, the changes will not affect this area.

A regulation passed under the Migratory Birds Convention Act enacts these changes. Similar action to reduce harvests has been taken in jurisdictions in the United States where southern James Bay geese migrate and spend the winter.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Pratt
Canadian Wildlife Service
OTTAWA (613) 952-0932

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



August 31, 1992

Newcastle Disease Infecting Ontario Waterfowl

The presence of Newcastle disease, a viral infection that affects birds, has been confirmed in one Ontario cormorant colony and there is every indication that it is present in many other colonies.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is co-operating with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Agriculture Canada and several U.S. agencies to monitor the impact of the disease.

If concentrations of dead birds are found, members of the public are asked to notify the local MNR office.

Newcastle disease has been positively identified in one cormorant colony in northern Lake Huron and is believed to be affecting birds in Georgian Bay and eastern Lake Ontario. Tests are being conducted to find if the disease is responsible for deaths of birds in other areas. Symptoms of the disease are paralysis of the wings and legs, a twisted neck and an inability to fly. This outbreak appears to have affected young rather than adult birds.

Newcastle disease has been confirmed as being the cause of a die-off of cormorants in North Dakota, Michigan and Minnesota over the past few weeks. During the past two years, the disease was confirmed in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where it also affected populations of pelicans.

There are three forms of the disease, and it is the most severe form -- the velogenic strain -- that has appeared in Ontario cormorants. Although limited to cormorants at this point, Newcastle disease can infect many species of wild or domestic birds. The last known infection of domestic birds in Canada was in 1973. It is not known to affect humans or other mammals.

Agriculture Canada has advised poultry producers of measures to take to prevent the disease from infecting their stock. Although Newcastle disease appears to be limited to shoreline areas at present, there is a possibility that the disease might be spread by gulls or other scavenging birds which travel inland.

A characteristic of the Newcastle disease virus is the ease with which it can be transmitted if the body of a dead bird is disturbed. If any contact is made with a dead or dying bird, contaminated clothing or shoes should be thoroughly washed with a commercially available bleach solution or disinfectant to prevent the inadvertent spread of the disease.

MNR recommends that people avoid visiting shorebird colonies. There is a danger that the virus could be spread if clothing and shoes are not properly decontaminated.

For many years, the cormorant was only an occasional visitor in the Great Lakes. After suffering from the adverse effects of DDT and other pesticides in their food chain, there has been a resurgence in the size of cormorant populations in the Great Lakes area.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dr. Ed Addison
Ministry of Natural Resources
Wildlife Research Section
MAPLE (416) 832-7124

Brian Blomme
Ministry of Natural Resources
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

Dr. Bob Hampson
Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
GUELPH (519) 823-8800 ext. 4523

Danièle Gauvin-Walker
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 326-3029



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CAZON
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September 11, 1992

Ontario Considering Recommendations To Amend The Trees Act

The Ontario government is considering recommendations to change the provincial Trees Act so that all municipalities would have the option to enact bylaws to protect trees.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will welcome comments from the public about the recommended changes until September 30.

"The existing legislation is 45 years old," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman. "The municipalities have told us they need stronger legislation and we want to know how the public feels about some of the options available."

The current Trees Act allows certain levels of municipal government to pass bylaws, but many are excluded.

"There is no intention of controlling a landowner's use of his or her property for producing Christmas trees, fruit farming, growing trees for landscaping or managed woodlots, but I agree that there should be ways to prevent indiscriminate cutting," said Mr. Wildman.

The proposed changes are not intended to prevent anyone from cutting trees on their own property for personal use according to good forestry practice, or from improving forested land by thinning or removing diseased trees.

Municipalities are allowed by existing legislation to pass tree-cutting bylaws. Amendments to the Trees Act would permit local municipalities to continue to do this, and would allow municipalities the flexibility to frame their bylaw in a way that best suits situations in their local community.

The Trees Bylaw Advisory Committee, with members drawn from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the province, suggested a number of changes to the act, including one that would let municipalities operate a permit system to oversee certain types of tree cutting in their areas.

"Increasingly the province is coming to realise that it's time to cut the apron strings. Municipalities are equipped, prepared and eager to have control over their own destinies and that includes the control over tree cutting within their communities," said Kingston Mayor Helen Cooper, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

"Municipal councillors are very accessible to the public. If there's a complaint from a concerned citizen about the cutting of a single tree or the clearcutting of a woodlot, and believe me it happens, the municipal councillor is the first to get the call. We are held directly accountable by our constituents. The time for this legislation has come and municipalities are ready for it," Mayor Cooper said.

Changes to the Trees Act could prevent misuse of wooded land by allowing councils, in certain circumstances, to require that permits be obtained before cutting trees or to issue stop-work orders. A user-friendly appeal system would be made possible at the local level.

Good forestry practices would be encouraged by incorporating a definition of this activity into the legislation. The Ministry of Natural Resources would assist municipalities by training staff so they would understand what good forestry practices entail. MNR staff would also be available to provide expert technical assistance.

Private woodlands constitute about 15 per cent of Ontario's total forested land. Half these lands are in southern Ontario, where there are pressures to change the way land is used so it can be developed.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Dadds
MNR Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2096

Claire Marchand
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
TORONTO (416) 929-7573



September 12, 1992

Partnership Will Rehabilitate the Bobwhite Quail In Southwestern Ontario

A partnership between the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) has been created to help rehabilitate bobwhite quail populations in southwestern Ontario.

In the mid 1800s, bobwhite quail were abundant throughout most of southern Ontario. Their decline has been attributed to harsh winters and habitat loss.

Bobwhite quail will be released in southwestern Middlesex County and east-central Elgin County in an effort to link scattered quail populations and increase their number within their range. Arrangements will be undertaken to import birds from the northern United States. If everything is in place, the first releases could begin as early as March of 1993.

Currently, their range in southwestern Ontario is limited primarily to the counties of Elgin, Middlesex and Lambton.

Funding for the project, estimated at \$50,000 over five years, is being provided by the OFAH and private sponsorships.

Additional support is being provided by the St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club, the Kent Cloverleaf Conservation Club of Chatham, the Aylmer District Trappers Council, the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station of St. Thomas, the Bobwhite Quail Conservation Foundation, and private landowners. MNR and OFAH are co-ordinating this support through a co-sponsored advisory committee.

MNR is also working closely with the OFAH to ensure that the relocated birds are genetically compatible with native populations, are disease-free and are handled in a responsible manner.

Bobwhite quail normally inhabit fencerows and woodlots. They are expected to assist farmers by feeding on some weeds and insects which are considered agricultural pests.

This is another example of the many partnerships which MNR has formed with the OFAH and other groups interested in natural resource and environmental issues. The Institute of Public Administration of Canada recently recognized this partnership strategy by presenting MNR with its 1992 gold award for innovative management.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



September 17, 1992

Bell Canada's New Directory Cover Celebrates Ontario's Provincial Parks Centennial.

The new Bell Canada telephone directory will feature one of Ontario's best known provincial parks on its cover to celebrate the 1993 centennial anniversary of Ontario's provincial parks.

Bell Canada is the first corporate partner to join MNR in marking the provincial parks centennial. The company has agreed to feature a morning mist scene from Killarney provincial park on the front cover of its latest telephone directory.

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman thanked Bell Canada at a meeting today with Jim Osborne, Bell's Vice-President of Public Affairs.

"I am pleased that Bell Canada is involved with the parks centennial," said Mr. Wildman. "This very attractive cover for the new directory will not only inform Ontarians that 1993 marks the 100th birthday of the provincial park system, but will remind them of the beauty of our natural heritage that is protected in provincial parks."

Mr. Osborne presented Mr. Wildman with a copy of the new telephone directory and a framed copy of the photograph featured on the cover.

In making the presentation, Mr. Osborne said "Bell Canada is delighted to be a part of the parks centennial celebration."

Bell Canada will produce and distribute approximately 7,000,000 copies of the new telephone directory. In addition, Bell will produce approximately 300,000 posters of the cover image which will be given to MNR for distribution at its provincial parks during 1993.

Staff from MNR's parks centennial project had approached Bell with the idea of featuring a park on its directory cover last fall. Since the agreement with Bell, MNR staff across Ontario have been approaching other telephone companies to have provincial parks featured on the covers of their new directories.

parks centennial - 2

Other centennial activities involving partnerships include:

- the McMichael Collection's 1993 desktop calendar featuring 12 provincial park images from the gallery's collection.
- a series on provincial parks to be produced by and aired on CKVR TV, and
- a four-part series on parks produced by TVO for airing next spring.

Some other initiatives to mark the parks centennial include a new full-colour, frameable wall map which depicts Ontario's provincial parks, and highlights features, activities, people and historical events; a centennial tabloid; a 50-minute film and conferences that will focus on the history and significance of Ontario's provincial parks.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Lynda Armstrong
Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-1993



September 29, 1992

SUCCESSFUL RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM CONTINUES IN EASTERN ONTARIO

The Ministry of Natural Resources is continuing its successful experimental rabies control program in eastern Ontario this fall by air-dropping baits to vaccinate foxes beginning September 28. This is the fourth in a series of drops which began in 1989.

The program covers a 12-county area between Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers and the western border of the County of Lennox and Addington. Approximately 580,000 baits will be dropped.

"The program is a real success," said Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman. "Rabies has almost disappeared from those counties where the experiment has been carried out."

Since the 1960s, the area has experienced a major rabies outbreak every third or fourth year. Based on that cycle, there should have been a rabies outbreak beginning in 1990, continuing into the winter of 1992/93. The number of confirmed rabies cases during outbreak years has ranged from 600 to 900. There were 116 cases in 1991 and to the end of July 1992, there have only been 26 cases. The provincial health and agricultural programs saved more than an estimated \$350,000 in 1991 as a result of fewer rabies cases in eastern Ontario.

The experimental bait program has not only controlled rabies within the treatment area, it has also protected the area from the effects of nearby outbreaks. Most of the rabies cases since July 1991 have been in areas on the borders of the treatment area -- including along the Ottawa River and in Hastings and Prince Edward counties.

This marks the first time in North America that rabies has been controlled by vaccinating the wildlife species which spread the disease.

The baits are yellowish cubes of fat and wax containing a plastic container of vaccine. They will be dropped on farmlands and bushland, but not near houses, towns, recreation facilities or into water, from yellow and black twin-engined aircraft flying at 600 feet. The baiting is expected to take about two weeks.

The ministry is asking members of the public not to touch the baits. The baits are not harmful to livestock or pets and will not vaccinate them. Pet owners are encouraged to ensure that their pets are vaccinated.

- 30 -

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dr. Charles MacInnes
Wildlife Research Section
MAPLE (416) 832-7110

Irvine Lake Airbase
TWEED (613) 333-2751 or
(613) 333-2939



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CADON

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September 30, 1992

MNR, CWS Operation Leads to Convictions for Illegal Goose Hunting in Northern Ontario

Five hunters have been convicted on eight charges relating to illegal hunting populations of Canada geese, currently under stress, snow geese and other birds.

The five were charged following a joint operation by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) that investigated activities at four commercial hunting camps in northern Ontario. In all, the operation led to 116 charges against 27 hunters.

In total there are:

- 30 charges of taking over the daily limit of geese;
- 35 charges of continuing to hunt after taking the daily limit;
- three charges of hunting without a licence;
- 15 charges related to hunting protected birds;
- 10 charges related to hunting from a boat or having a loaded firearm in a boat;
- one charge of careless hunting;
- two charges of wasting the flesh of wildlife;
- 20 charges relating to transporting migratory birds improperly.

The convicted hunters pleaded guilty in Provincial court in Fort Frances and Timmins to two charges of taking over the limit; four charges of transporting migratory birds without a fully feathered wing; one charge of transporting a container of migratory birds not clearly marked; and one charge of having a loaded firearm in a boat. They were fined a total of \$1,500 and forfeited two firearms.

Court cases are still pending against 22 hunters on 108 charges in Provincial court in Fort Frances and Timmins. Eighteen of the 27 hunters charged are from the United States, eight are from southern Ontario and one is from northwestern Ontario.

Preliminary investigations by MNR and the CWS led to an undercover operation in which officers of the two agencies posed as hunters at four commercial hunt camps along the James Bay coast this year to collect information.

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operation - 2

Three operations were undertaken at airports in Fort Frances and Timmins this month to check hunters returning home. All hunters were charged as a result of these checks. In addition, 23 firearms, 162 geese and 17 ducks were seized.

This year the agencies have implemented changes to hunting in 18 northern Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to protect Canada geese that breed on southern James Bay. The changes affect both giant Canada geese and Canada geese from southern James Bay because it is difficult to distinguish between them.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dennis Beukelman
Regional Enforcement Intelligence Officer
COCHRANE (705) 272-7019

Joe Carreiro
Canadian Wildlife Service
OTTAWA (613) 952-0931

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



October 5, 1992

Zebra Mussel Signs Found in Kempenfelt Bay, Lake Simcoe

Zebra mussel larvae were found in water samples collected from Kempenfelt Bay in Lake Simcoe in August. No adult mussels were found, but the presence of the larvae, also known as veligers, is a strong indication that colonies of live zebra mussels could be forming.

The veligers are free-floating forms of the organism which will eventually turn into the adult mussels with the familiar striped shells. Veligers are not visible to the naked eye and can only be observed through a microscope.

Biologists from MNR's Lake Simcoe Fisheries Assessment Unit monitored 12 sampling stations for the presence of zebra mussels during the past summer. The stations were located throughout Lake Simcoe, Lake Couchiching and in the Trent-Severn Waterway.

Veligers were found only in the one water-sampling station in Kempenfelt Bay, near Barrie. MNR also examined hard surfaces in each sampling area -- such as rocks and docks -- which are favorite places for zebra mussels to colonize, but no traces of them were found.

Similar assessment programs have taken place in the Muskoka, Kawartha and Rideau lake chains. No adult mussels or veligers were found so far this year. Veligers were found in several Kawartha lakes last year, so there is still a probability that mussels are present, but not yet at detectable levels.

Zebra mussels will often attach themselves to boats in affected lakes and can then be unknowingly transferred to a mussel-free lake. If the hull of a vessel has a grainy feel to it when it is taken out of the water, it probably has young zebra mussels clinging to it which are not visible to the naked eye.

Boat users are asked to wash their craft when leaving lakes where zebra mussel colonies exist. Boats should be washed with high-pressure sprays, preferably with water heated to at least 40 degrees Celsius. Bilges, bait wells and live wells should be drained on dry land, away from the water, and then thoroughly washed out.

Information on preventing the spread of zebra mussels can be obtained by calling the Zebra Mussel Hotline: 1-800-563-7711.

- 30 -



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Dadds
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2096

Judi Orendorff
Zebra Mussel Co-ordinator
MAPLE (416) 832-7266

Cam Willox
Lake Simcoe Fisheries
Assessment Unit
SUTTON (416) 722-5512



- Le 5 octobre 1992

Présence de moules zébrées dans la baie Kempenfelt, lac Simcoe

Des larves de moules zébrées ont été découvertes dans des échantillons d'eau prélevés dans la baie Kempenfelt (lac Simcoe) en août dernier. Bien que l'on n'ait trouvé aucune moule adulte, la présence de larves, dites « véligères », est une bonne indication que des colonies de moules zébrées sont en formation.

Ces larves véligères se présentent sous la forme de filaments qui flottent librement dans l'eau. Elles se développent pour devenir la créature à coquille zébrée que l'on connaît déjà trop bien. Les larves véligères ne sont pas visibles à l'œil nu et ne se voient qu'à l'aide d'un microscope.

Les biologistes de l'unité d'évaluation des pêches du lac Simcoe (MRN) ont examiné des échantillons prélevés dans 12 stations au cours de l'été dernier. Ces stations étaient réparties entre le lac Simcoe, le lac Couchiching et la voie navigable Trent-Severn.

Ils n'ont trouvé des larves que dans un échantillon, qui provenait de la baie Kempenfelt, près de Barrie. Dans chaque zone, le personnel du MRN avait également examiné des surfaces dures (roches, pontons, etc.) où les moules zébrées ont tendance à s'assembler. Ces surfaces n'avaient alors révélé aucune trace de moules.

Des mesures semblables ont été prises dans les chaînes de lacs Muskoka, Kawartha et Rideau. Aux dernières nouvelles, la moule zébrée ne s'y est pas encore manifestée. L'année dernière, des larves véligères avaient été découvertes dans plusieurs lacs des Kawarthas. Il reste donc une possibilité que la moule zébrée s'y soit introduite, quoiqu'à des niveaux encore indétectables.

Dans les eaux où elles sont présentes, il est fréquent que les moules zébrées s'attachent à la coque des bateaux. Sans le savoir, le propriétaire du bateau risque alors de transporter des larves dans un lac jusque-là sans moules. Si la surface de la coque semble légèrement rugueuse quand on la sort de l'eau, il est probable que des moules à l'état larvaire s'y sont déjà attachées, bien qu'elles ne soient pas encore visibles à l'œil nu.

On demande par conséquent aux personnes qui utilisent un bateau d'en laver la coque lorsqu'ils quittent un lac infesté. Le lavage devrait se faire à l'aide d'un jet d'eau à haute pression, de préférence avec de l'eau chauffée au moins à 40 ° Celsius. Le fond de cale des bateaux, les récipients d'appâts et de poissons vivants devraient être vidés sur la terre, loin de tout plan d'eau, puis lavés soigneusement.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur la propagation des moules zébrées, veuillez téléphoner au numéro de Renseignements Moules Zébrées, au 1-800-563-7711.

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Editor's note : English version available.

Source :

Michel Payen-Dumont
Direction des services de communications
TORONTO (416) 314-2106



October 7, 1992

Media Advisory

The Ministry of Natural Resources has assigned Conservation Officers to work on all statutory holidays for the balance of the 1992-93 fiscal year.

The decision, by Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman, was made after reviewing concerns that the ministry needed to provide a stronger enforcement presence on statutory holidays and in potential emergency situations.

The decision to cover statutory holidays goes into effect immediately, beginning with the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend, traditionally a popular time for hunting. Up to half the province's 265 Conservation Officers will work all statutory holidays, with staffing adjusted to cover areas where the need is highest and for Christmas and Boxing Day.

The ministry has had to review its expenditures and reduce costs wherever possible as a result of the current recession. As part of its effort to reduce expenditures, the ministry has asked managers, including managers in enforcement, to use the utmost discretion in allocating overtime.

"We have obligations to meet when it comes to the province's fish and wildlife and conservation laws and we intend to meet those obligations to the best of our ability," said Mr. Wildman. "For conservation officers, this means continuing to respond to emergencies and other situations that require immediate attention."

The Minister also urged people with information on possible infractions of fish and wildlife laws to call their local MNR district office during business hours, or their local Crime Stoppers.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095





Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

news release
communiqué

Le 7 octobre 1992

Avis aux médias

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles a assigné aux agents de protection de la nature de travailler pendant tous les jours fériés d'ici à la fin de l'exercice 1992-1993.

Le ministre des Richesses naturelles, Monsieur Bud Wildman, a pris cette décision pour répondre à des préoccupations exprimées selon lesquelles un service d'application des lois plus soutenu devrait être assuré lors des jours fériés et en cas d'urgence.

La décision concernant les jours fériés entre en vigueur immédiatement, avec la fin de semaine de l'action de grâce, époque très prisée de beaucoup de chasseurs. Au maximum, la moitié du contingent provincial de 265 agents seront appelés à travailler pendant tous les jours fériés. La répartition des effectifs s'effectuera en fonction des besoins connus de chaque région. Le jour de Noël et le lendemain feront aussi l'objet de ce nouveau service.

Le ministère a dû examiner ses dépenses et couper les frais autant que possible en raison de la récession qui sévit actuellement. Dans le cadre des mesures prises à cet effet, le ministre a prié les chefs de service, notamment ceux et celles qui travaillent à l'application des lois, d'assigner les heures supplémentaires aussi judicieusement que possible.

« Nous avons des obligations bien définies en ce qui concerne la faune et le poisson de la province. Les lois visant la protection de la nature nous permettent justement de nous acquitter de ces obligations au mieux de nos aptitudes », a déclaré M. Wildman. « Pour les agents de protection de la nature, cela signifie qu'ils doivent pouvoir répondre aux urgences et autres situations qui exigent leur attention immédiate. »

Le ministre encourage également les personnes qui pensent avoir des renseignements sur des infractions de les communiquer, pendant les heures de bureau, aux responsables du bureau du MRN de leur district ou au service Échec au Crime de leur localité.

- 30 -

Editor's note : English version available.

Source :

Michel Payen-Dumont
Direction des services de communications
TORONTO (416) 314-2106



CAZON
NR
-N2-

November 3, 1992

No Change to Fishing Licence Age Limits Says Minister

No changes will be made to the ages of persons required to purchase fishing licences in Ontario, Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman stated today.

MNR went through an extensive review of its system of licensing hunters and anglers earlier this year. One recommendation contained in the Fishing and Hunting Licence Review discussion paper, published in April 1992, was that 16 and 17 year olds should be licensed in future. This recommendation was not accepted.

"Sportfishing is a major recreational pursuit in Ontario, and we want to enable young people to enjoy this activity," said Mr. Wildman. "There is no need to make young people in their mid-teens pay, when we should be encouraging them to explore this enriching pastime and spend more time becoming conscious of the environment they inherit."

Mr. Wildman said the response received during the public review was in large measure responsible for his decision that the age limit should not be lowered for licensing. Other recommendations arising from the review are still being considered by the government.

Resident fishing licences will not be required by adults aged 65 and over or by the disabled, as is currently the practice. To meet the disabled definition in 1993, anglers must be in possession of a Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Card or a Ministry of Transportation disabled parking permit.

A new Outdoors Card, announced earlier this year, was supported by the Fishing and Hunting Licence Review. The Outdoors Card will be required by people 18 years of age or more, and under 65, if they intend to fish. All hunters will require the Outdoors Card in order to purchase a hunting licence.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

John Dadds
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2096



Le 3 novembre 1992

Aucun changement à l'âge minimum du permis de pêche

«Nous n'apporterons aucun changement à l'âge minimum exigé des personnes achetant un permis de pêche en Ontario», a déclaré aujourd'hui le ministre des Richesses naturelles M. Bud Wildman.

En début d'année, le MRN avait procédé à une révision approfondie de son système de délivrance de permis de chasse et de pêche. Dans le document de travail de la Révision des permis de chasse et de pêche publié en avril 1992, on recommandait que, dorénavant les personnes âgées de 16 et 17 ans soient obligées d'acheter un permis pour pêcher. Cette recommandation n'a pas été acceptée.

«La pêche sportive est un des loisirs principaux des Ontariens et des Ontariennes et nous voulons permettre aux jeunes d'en profiter», a ajouté M. Wildman. «Il n'est pas nécessaire de faire payer les adolescents. Nous devons les encourager à profiter de ce riche passe-temps et leur donner l'occasion de se sensibiliser à l'environnement dont ils font partie.»

C'est en grande partie à la suite des commentaires reçus lors de l'examen public que M. Wildman a décidé qu'il ne changerait pas l'âge minimum des personnes achetant un permis. Par contre, le gouvernement considère toujours les autres recommandations soumises dans le document de travail.

Comme par le passé, les personnes âgées de 65 ans et plus et les personnes handicapées qui demeurent en Ontario, n'auront pas besoin d'acheter de permis de pêche. Pour remplir les conditions en 1993, les personnes handicapées doivent détenir la carte de l'Institut national canadien pour les aveugles (INCA) ou un permis de stationnement pour personnes handicapées émis par le ministère des Transports.

La sortie de la nouvelle Carte Plein air, annoncée antérieurement, a été appuyée lors de la révision des permis de chasse et de pêche. Les personnes âgées de plus de 18 ans et de moins de 65 ans devront acheter la Carte Plein air si elles veulent pêcher. Les personnes qui veulent chasser devront avoir la Carte Plein air pour acheter un permis de chasse.

- 30 -

EDITOR'S NOTE : English version available.

Source :

Michel Payen-Dumont
Direction des services de communications
TORONTO (416) 314-2106



Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles



news release
communiqué

November 12, 1992

Ministers Announce Commitment To Improve Allocation Of Adult Moose Validation Tags Within Tourism Industry

The province will move ahead to improve the system for allocating adult moose tags to the tourism industry, Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman and Tourism and Recreation Minister Peter North announced today.

The ministers committed the province to implementing recommendations in a report released today, entitled *A Review of the Allocation of Adult Moose Validation Tags Within the Tourism Industry*.

The report, which focuses on ways to improve key areas of concern in the Tag Share System for moose hunting, was prepared by Cochrane North MPP Len Wood, Parliamentary Assistant to Mr. Wildman, and Muskoka-Georgian Bay MPP Dan Waters, Parliamentary Assistant to Mr. North.

Mr. Wood and Mr. Waters conducted the review of the system by examining the comments of tourist outfitters and members of the public who attended open meetings and by analysing the responses of outfitters to a questionnaire.

"Tourist outfitters and the general public have told us how to improve the tag share system. We look forward to implementing some of those recommendations before the start of the 1993 moose hunting season," Mr. Wildman said.

"I am pleased that tourist operators took the opportunity to express their views," said Mr. North. "The recommendations that are implemented will not only strengthen the tourism industry but will also result in economic benefits to the people of Ontario."

For administrative purposes, the province has been divided into Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). The Tag Share System considers that each WMU has 1,000 shares. Therefore the number of moose tags each outfitter gets is based on the number of shares he or she holds in a WMU.

The Review of the Allocation of Adult Moose Validation Tags Within the Tourism Industry contains the following key recommendations:

- The allocation of the moose harvest to the tourism industry should remain at about 10 per cent provincially.
- An outfitter should be permitted to permanently transfer shares to any eligible outfitter. Currently, shares can be transferred only to outfitters already in the tag allocation system.
- Procedures and conditions for transfer of shares should be developed as soon as possible by the Ontario Moose Allocation Advisory Committee (OMAAC) in consultation with tourist outfitters. The advisory committee is made up of representatives from the tourism industry and hunters.
- Transfers of adult moose validation tags from one outfitter to another should be disallowed except under exceptional circumstances. Where these tags have not been used by a certain period of time, they should be reclaimed by the advisory committee and allocated to other outfitters.
- Policies and procedures to guide the decisions of the advisory committee should be developed in conjunction with the tourism industry and set down in writing.
- Consistent staff levels and funding should be made available to handle the work load associated with the responsibilities of the advisory committee. Continued advisory support should come from both the ministries of Natural Resources and Tourism and Recreation.
- Outfitters should be notified of the tag allocation earlier so they can have more lead time for promotion.
- Stronger efforts should be made to educate tourist outfitters on managing the moose resource through tag quotas and on the long-term commercial viability of moose hunting.

In November 1991, Mr. Wildman requested the review of the Tag Share System to consider ways of improving administration and communications between the advisory committee and outfitters, to determine how "new" outfitters might be included in the allocation process or how the operations of existing outfitters could be expanded. The review was also to identify ways of reducing the impact of potential moose tag quota reductions on tourist outfitters.

moose-3

Of the 650 questionnaires sent out in March 1992 to outfitters already in the system and outfitters who have applied to enter the system, 363 were returned. Approximately 300 people attended the five consultation meetings which were held this year with outfitters in Timmins, Sudbury, Wawa, Thunder Bay and Dryden.

Mr. Wildman will present the government's response to the recommendations when he addresses the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters convention in Sault Ste. Marie on November 27.

Copies of *A Review of the Allocation of Adult Moose Validation Tags Within the Tourism Industry* may be obtained at no cost from district and area offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources or district offices of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. It is also available from the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, or by calling (416) 314-2225.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Al Bissett
MNR Wildlife Policy Branch
KENORA (807) 468-2610

Glenn Warren
MTR Consultant, Tourism and Industry
SUDBURY (705) 688-3035

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2123



November 25, 1992

Ontario Acts on Tri-Council Commitment to Protect Canada's Natural Heritage

AYLMER, Québec -- Ontario will proceed with an action plan on protecting more endangered spaces and develop a strategy for biodiversity conservation, Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman announced today.

The action plan and strategy highlight Ontario's support of a federal-provincial statement of commitment to protect Canada's natural heritage and the federal government's ratification of a United Nations Convention on Biodiversity Conservation, announced today at a meeting of Tri-Council (Wildlife, Parks, Environment) Ministers in Aylmer, Québec.

"Ontario already has perhaps the finest provincial parks system in North America. Our system includes 260 parks, covering 6.4 million hectares or six per cent of our province's total land and water base," Mr. Wildman said. "The Ontario action plan on endangered spaces will continue to build on efforts begun in 1992 that have added 913 square kilometres to the province's protected areas."

The additions to protected areas are found in 11 provincial parks, including Lake Superior, where logging is no longer permitted and natural environment zones have been increased by 787 square kilometres, and Algonquin, where the nature reserve zone system has been expanded by 100 square kilometres. Nine existing parks have also been expanded by a total of 26 square kilometres.

"Early next year, we hope to add land to five more existing provincial parks by a total of nearly 67 square kilometres," Mr. Wildman said.

The Ontario action plan was developed by the Endangered Spaces Team, which includes MNR staff and representatives of aboriginal groups. The plan will protect endangered spaces by committing MNR to:

- proceeding, by 1993, with public consultation and announce new provincial parks or other protected areas in at least five site districts;
- preparing, by 1994, a long-range vision for completing a network of provincial parks and protected areas by the year 2000;
- designing a process for meaningful consultation with aboriginal groups and the general public in 1993 and beyond.

Mr. Wildman also announced that Ontario supports the federal government's ratification of a United Nations Convention on Biodiversity Conservation. Ontario will develop its own biodiversity conservation strategy which, when completed, will serve as the province's contribution to a national strategy.

"While a number of Ontario government programs support the over-all goal of biodiversity conservation, we recognize the need to prepare a unified approach within Ontario, one that reflects a diversity of views and interests," Mr. Wildman said.

A draft statement on biodiversity conservation prepared by an interministry team was released today for public comment.

A team, to be chaired by MNR, including representatives from government ministries, aboriginal groups and the public, will be drawn together to develop and recommend a provincial strategy. This recommended strategy will be presented to the Minister of Natural Resources by December 1993 and will address such topics as:

- the definition, importance, goals, objectives and principles for biodiversity conservation in Ontario;
- Ontario's contribution to a national strategy and any needed co-ordination with other jurisdictions;
- identification of critical gaps in research and priorities for biodiversity conservation;
- monitoring and evaluation efforts.

"Ontario is serious about protecting endangered spaces through a system of provincial parks, conservation areas, areas of natural and scientific interest, wetlands, old-growth forests and other natural heritage areas," Mr. Wildman said. "I am confident that through our action plan on endangered spaces, and the evolving biodiversity conservation strategy, Ontario is demonstrating its commitment to protecting and conserving Canada's natural heritage."

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bob Davidson (Endangered Spaces)
Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch
PETERBOROUGH (705) 740-1220

Dave Gordon (Biodiversity Conservation)
Corporate Policy and Planning Secretariat
TORONTO (416) 314-1941

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



November 26, 1992

Minister Signs Agreement for New Natural Heritage Information Centre

A Natural Heritage Information Centre will soon collect data that helps protect Ontario's natural heritage.

A memorandum of understanding to establish and operate the information centre was signed today by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the Natural Heritage League, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Nature Conservancy of the United States.

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman said the centre, to be located at Trent University in Peterborough, will link users and gather information on computer about Ontario's natural environment. This information will help make decisions that identify, protect and manage Ontario's natural heritage areas.

"The centre will be an essential base for a considerable amount of information that many different conservation groups have collected," Mr. Wildman said. "This kind of partnership between concerned parties is the type of data and technology sharing that has become so important to resources management in the '90s."

Clients and partners involved in the protection of natural areas will have access to the centre.

Ontario has committed \$450,000 to the project, and an MNR staff member to manage the centre. The other \$450,000 was contributed by sizable donations from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Richard and Jean Ivey Foundation, and the Carolinian Canada Program.

The announcement, made in Toronto at the 10th annual meeting of the Natural Heritage League, came one day after Mr. Wildman announced two new natural heritage conservation initiatives for Ontario.

Mr. Wildman told the federal and provincial-Tri-Council Ministers' meeting in Aylmer, Québec on November 25 that Ontario has an action plan to protect more endangered spaces and will begin to develop a strategy on biodiversity conservation.

"Ontario is committed to developing an excellent track record on protecting valuable ecosystems," Mr. Wildman said. "In addition to the initiatives announced this week, we have also protected nearly 913 square kilometres of new areas in 11 existing provincial parks, and we intend to do more in the coming year."

- 30 -

REMARQUE: Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Nancy Prout
Land and Resource Information Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-1312

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



CASON
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- N 225

December 22, 1992

MNR Grants One-Month Grace Period for New Outdoors Card

A one-month grace period has been declared by the Ministry of Natural Resources for Outdoors Card applicants who don't receive their new Outdoors Card by January 1.

Starting January 1, 1993, every Ontario resident must have an Outdoors Card in order to buy a hunting or fishing licence. Most of the common 1993 licences will be in the form of stickers attached to the card. The stickers will replace the old paper licences.

Although card applications are being processed in very large numbers, not everyone who wants to fish or hunt in January will get their new card in time for the new year. Application forms for the card are available at licence issuers and MNR District and Area offices. The new licence stickers will also be available at licence issuers January 1 for those anglers and hunters who have already received their Outdoors Card.

Anglers and hunters who have applied for their Outdoors Card will still be able to hunt and fish in January even though they have not yet received the card and the appropriate licence. The grace period will apply for one month, from January 1 to January 31, 1993. After January 31, 1993, all residents must have an Outdoors Card and a licence to legally hunt or fish.

MNR's conservation officers will exercise their discretion with hunters and anglers who are unable to produce their card and licence and say the card is in the mail. The officers will be able to check with a central database to confirm whether a person's application has been processed.

More than one million Outdoors Card applications were mailed out in mid-November. The sheer size of the application processing task has caused a small backlog which will be reduced within the next few weeks.

Throughout 1993, temporary Outdoors Cards and fishing licences will be available from licence issuers. For payment of the requisite fees, a temporary card and fishing licence will be issued that is valid for 60 days -- during which time the purchaser may send in the appropriate copy of the temporary card form to obtain his or her three-year plastic card. The temporary Outdoors Card for anglers will be available all year, not just for the grace period.

Three-year licences for fishing and small game hunting are available when an applicant initially applies for the Outdoors Card. Until March 31, 1993, the card fee is included in the price of the three-year licence. NOTE: Three-year licences are not available with the temporary Outdoors Card.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095





Ontario

Ministry of Ministère des
Natural Richesses
Resources naturelles

news release
communiqué

Le 22 décembre 1992

Le MRN accorde un mois de grâce pour l'obtention de la Carte Plein air

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles a décidé d'accorder un mois de grâce aux personnes qui, en ayant fait la demande, n'ont pas encore reçu la nouvelle Carte Plein air au 1^{er} janvier 1993.

Dès le 1^{er} janvier 1993, toute personne résidant en Ontario devra avoir une Carte Plein air pour acheter un permis de pêche ou de chasse. En 1993, la plupart des permis les plus communs prendront la forme d'une vignette autocollante qui s'apposera au dos de la carte. Ces autocollants remplaceront les anciens permis en papier.

Bien qu'un grand nombre de cartes soient déjà en route, certaines personnes qui désire pêcher ou chasser en janvier ne recevront pas leur carte à temps pour la nouvelle année. Tous les délivreurs de permis et les bureaux de district et de secteur du MRN distribuent le formulaire de demande de carte. Les chasseurs et pêcheurs qui ont leur carte pourront acheter les autocollants aux mêmes endroits dès le 1^{er} janvier.

Les pêcheurs et chasseurs qui ont déposé une demande de Carte Plein air pourront pêcher et chasser, même s'ils n'ont pas encore de carte et de permis. Cette période de grâce s'étendra sur un mois, du 1^{er} au 31 janvier 1993. Après le 31 janvier, tous les résidents de la province doivent posséder une Carte Plein air et le permis voulu pour aller à la chasse ou à la pêche légalement.

Les agents et agentes de protection de la nature du MRN useront de leur discrétion face aux chasseurs et pêcheurs qui ne seront capables de leur présenter ni carte ni permis et qui leur déclareront qu'ils attendent encore de recevoir la carte. Dans un tel cas, les agents pourront consulter une base de données centrale qui leur confirmera si la demande est bien en route.

Le ministère a envoyé plus d'un million de Cartes Plein air par la poste à la mi-novembre. Avec un aussi grand nombre de demandes à traiter, il y aura un léger retard pour certains demandeurs, mais l'administration en viendra à bout en quelques semaines.

Toute l'année en 1993, les délivreurs de permis offriront des Cartes Plein air et des permis de pêche provisoires. Une carte et un permis de pêche provisoires seront en vente au prix déclaré et auront une validité de 60 jours. Pendant ce temps, l'acheteur ou l'acheteuse pourra envoyer l'exemplaire indiqué de la carte temporaire au ministère en vue d'obtenir sa carte en plastique qui, elle, est valide trois ans. Les pêcheurs pourront acheter une Carte Plein air provisoire toute l'année, pas seulement pendant la période de grâce ci-annoncée.

En faisant sa demande de Carte Plein air, une personne pourra aussi acheter un permis de pêche sportive ou de chasse au petit gibier, valide trois ans. Jusqu'au 31 mars 1993, le prix de la carte sera compris dans le prix de tout permis de trois ans. REMARQUE : la carte provisoire ne donne pas droit à un permis de trois ans.

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Editor's note : English version available.

Sources :

Michel Payen-Dumont
Direction des services de communications
TORONTO (416) 314-2106



December 23, 1992

MNR to Proceed with Changes to Trees Act for Urban Municipalities

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman today announced that he will support changes to Ontario's Trees Act that will better enable urban municipalities to control management of trees within their boundaries.

"More than 6,000 responses to recommendations for changes to Ontario's Trees Act have been received since I opened the doors for public input in May," Mr. Wildman said. "It's clear that public opinion is divided along urban and rural lines, and I will consider changes to the legislation that would allow urban centres and larger cities to exercise more control over how urban trees and woodlots affect the urban landscape."

Recommendations for changes to the Trees Act were made by the Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee, which was made up of representatives of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and staff from the ministries of Natural Resources and Municipal Affairs.

Many Ontario municipalities feel that the existing Trees Act fails to meet the demands of today's communities because of vast changes that have taken place in the province since the Act was first passed in 1946. The Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee was formed after AMO voiced those concerns on behalf of its members.

The main objections to the committee's proposals appear to be based on the underlying principle of the rights of property owners to determine how their property should be managed.

An analysis of public responses by MNR staff found that there is general agreement that urban woodlots and trees should be better protected from development, and that destruction of urban trees should be discouraged.

A majority of urban residents who expressed an opinion on the subject favor the idea of bylaws to protect trees and woodlots in urban areas and also support an approach using a system of permits and stop-work orders to enforce the terms of such a bylaw.

The committee's recommendations envisioned expanding the provisions of the current act so that all municipalities would have the option of passing a bylaw giving them the power to control tree cutting. The changes the committee proposed would have allowed individual municipalities to enact bylaws, if the community decided it was necessary. Rural residents oppose this suggestion by a clear margin.

"I do not intend to propose that the Trees Act be extended to rural municipalities outside of the county, regional or metropolitan levels of government," said Mr. Wildman.

There is agreement from a cross-section of respondents that good stewardship of rural woodlots is important, but there is a difference of opinion as to how to ensure rural woodlands are maintained.

To accomplish this, Mr Wildman announced that he will explore, with his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, and rural organizations, other measures aimed at promoting responsible rural woodlot management, including education and innovative programs.

The advisory committee proposed that municipal bylaws include a system of permits and stop-work orders to control cutting of trees. Rural residents opposed the permit proposal by a three-to-one ratio, while opposition to stop-work orders was slightly less.

Regarding the personal use of trees on one's own property, for firewood as an example, there is a clear indication by both urban and rural respondents that there should be an exemption from any regulating bylaw for trees cut for this purpose. This is comparable to an allowance made in the present version of the Trees Act for a person's "own use" of trees on his or her property.

Further consultation will take place with government agencies, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and other interested groups on how an amended Trees Act would operate in urban municipalities and how urban municipalities will be defined in areas without county or regional levels of government.

Once those consultations are completed, the next step will be drafting an amendment to the Trees Act that would apply to urban municipalities. This process which could start as early as the spring of 1993.

- 30 -

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Alec Denys
Forest Policy Branch
SAULT STE. MARIE (705) 945-6619

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095

John Dadds
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2096



CADON
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January 19, 1993

Planning Strategy Highlights Park and Foodland Protection

The Ontario government announced today that it plans to create North America's largest urban park, preserve almost 8,000 acres (3,200 hectares) of prime agricultural land, and protect other significant natural-heritage features in the Scarborough/ Markham/Pickering area.

Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman and Agriculture and Food Minister Elmer Buchanan said the announcements are a central element in the provincial government's balanced and comprehensive strategy for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Protecting natural and agricultural resources is the first step in implementing a vision for the GTA.

"The proposal to create the 11,400-acre park (4,560 hectares) and to preserve 8,000 acres of agricultural lands has been made within a wider context that will ensure environmental protection and enhancement while addressing the need for economic vitality of the GTA," the ministers told a joint news conference at the Metro Toronto Zoo.

"The park will protect the ecological integrity of the valley systems of the Rouge River and its key tributaries in an area stretching from Lake Ontario in the south to the Oak Ridges Moraine in the north," Mr. Wildman said.

Mr. Buchanan announced a two-step process to protect prime farm land located between the park and the west Duffin Creek, north of Steeles Avenue.

"I am pleased to announce the government's decision to retain this land in long-term agricultural use. It reflects the public's interest in preserving valuable food-producing lands for future generations," Mr. Buchanan said.

The next step, Mr. Buchanan added, will be to consult with local landowners and tenants, farmers, municipalities and community groups to develop an agricultural strategy for the area. The strategy will look at ways to ensure long-term sustainable agricultural production and practices on these lands.

Land lease arrangements will be improved so that farmers can have long-term security to make better management decisions and capital investments in their farming operations. Mr. Buchanan said his ministry and the Ministry of Government Services will carry out the consultation over the next few months.

Mr. Wildman said a *Draft Rouge Park Management Plan* will be available for public review and comment for the next two months. During this period, which will run to the end of March, the province will discuss the issues of park management and funding with the federal government, municipalities, aboriginal groups, public agencies, and other interested parties. Based on the comments received, the province will finalize the plan and move to establish a park-management agency.

The province will also provide protection for natural and cultural heritage areas in other watersheds on provincially-owned lands adjacent to the Rouge Valley area and is actively reviewing how this might be best accomplished.

The *Draft Rouge Park Management Plan* is an important part of a comprehensive ecosystem planning approach for its land holdings in the area. The Plan is the provincial response to the Rouge Valley Advisory Committee's Report submitted to Mr. Wildman in August 1992.

"On behalf of the Ontario government, I want to publicly thank the members of the Advisory Committee for their dedication and commitment and for their comprehensive recommendations," Mr. Wildman said.

Copies of the *Draft Rouge Park Management Plan* may be obtained from the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1553, or from MNR's Greater Toronto Area Branch, 2nd Floor, Trillium Building, 10401 Dufferin Street, Maple, Ontario L6A 1S9, telephone (416) 832-7195.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tom Farrell
MNR Greater Toronto Area Branch
TORONTO (416) 832-7252

Anne White
MNR Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2123

Neil Smith
OMAF Land use Planning Branch
TORONTO (416) 326-3115

Danièle Gauvin-Walker
OMAF Communications Branch
TORONTO (416) 326-3029



Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Ministère des
Richesses
naturelles

news release
communiqué

March 2, 1993

Minister Encourages Public Comment on Plans for Largest Urban Park

Natural Resources Minister Howard Hampton today announced that the province is distributing newsprint tabloids to households in the Scarborough, Markham and Pickering areas to encourage wide public participation in the development of the Rouge park.

"I want to hear from as many people as possible. A lot of local residents have worked very hard over the years to make the park a reality," said Mr. Hampton. "This is an opportunity for those people to have a say in how the park will be managed."

The Rouge Park newsprint tabloid explains why the government is committed to protecting significant features in the largest urban park in North America and describes the features of the Rouge Valley area. The public is encouraged to comment on the *Draft Rouge Park Management Plan* which outlines proposals that will guide the establishment and development of the Rouge park.

"It is especially significant that the largest urban park will join Ontario's system of protected areas this year, the centennial of Ontario's provincial parks system," said Mr. Hampton.

"The Rouge Park will be a new type of park -- it will be a partnership that complements Ontario's network of parks and protected areas. Through the Rouge Park, we have an ideal opportunity to create a new and different park management structure based on partnerships among various groups," Mr. Hampton added.

The minister made the announcement while touring the Rouge Valley area with local mayors and representatives of the Rouge Valley Park Advisory Committee, members of the Save the Rouge Valley System Inc., and schoolchildren -- future stewards of the park.

"This park is a once in a lifetime opportunity, unique in the world. It is essential that the public becomes involved," said Stephen Marshall, Chairman of the Save the Rouge Valley System Inc. "People must tell the government what they want the park to be, and participate in making it happen," he added.

"The City of Scarborough is pleased with the Ontario government's plan to create the Rouge Valley park," said Scarborough Mayor Joyce Trimmer. "I urge all residents with an interest in the Scarborough, Markham, Pickering areas -- to take part in this review and let the Ontario government know what you think about its plan for the park."

In January, the province announced that it plans to set aside more than 45 square kilometres (11,400 acres) to create North America's largest urban park -- 28 times the size of Toronto's High Park -- and preserve almost 8,000 acres of prime agricultural land.

rouge park - 2

Natural-heritage features in the Scarborough, Markham, Pickering, Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville areas will also be protected.

The creation of the Rouge Park is an example of the Ontario government's commitment to protecting the province's distinctive natural and cultural heritage features and landscapes for present and future generations.

As part of the commitment, the ministry is proceeding this year with an "Endangered Spaces" action plan to announce new provincial parks or other protected areas in at least five areas of the province. The plan also commits MNR to developing a long-range vision for completing a network of provincial parks and protected areas by the year 2000.

In order to ensure that people have enough time to comment on the plan, Mr. Hampton has extended the current consultation period by nearly three weeks to April 19.

In addition to the newsprint tabloid, advertisements will appear in selected metropolitan and community newspapers to encourage comments from people in other parts of the Greater Toronto Area.

To participate in the consultation process, people should submit written comments on the *Draft Rouge Park Management Plan* to MNR's Greater Toronto Area Branch, 2nd Floor, Trillium Building, 10401 Dufferin Street, Maple, Ontario L6A 1S9 by April 19, 1993.

Copies of the *Draft Rouge Park Management Plan* and copies of the Rouge Valley newsprint tabloid can be obtained from the Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1717, or from MNR's Greater Toronto Area Branch at the address listed earlier, or telephone (416) 832-7195.

MNR will complete the park management plan by the middle of this year.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rosemary Hnatiuk
Minister's Office
TORONTO (416) 314-2208

Tom Farrell
MNR Greater Toronto Area Branch
TORONTO (416) 832-7152

Anne White
MNR Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2123



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Gouvernement
Public

June 1993

Ontario - Anishinabek Conservation and Fishing Agreement

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Anishinabek Nation have released a framework of guiding principles for future conservation and fishing agreements between the province and the more than 40 member First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation.

The framework recognizes the paramount importance of conservation in all future fishing agreements. It will allow the individual First Nations, whose territory ranges from Lake Superior to Sarnia and east to the Ottawa area, to negotiate specific agreements with the province regarding conservation and fishing.

The Union of Ontario Indians represented the Anishinabek Nation in discussions with the province.

Highlights of the Framework of Guiding Principles

Conservation

The framework recognizes the paramount importance of conservation of the fisheries resource, and the importance of the resource to all the people of Ontario, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike.

- Both parties agree that conservation must be a first priority, and that decisions on allocation must recognize aboriginal and treaty rights.
- Both parties agree that fisheries must be managed based on the principle of sustainable development to ensure the survival of fish stocks for the continued benefit of future generations.
- Both parties acknowledge that all governments in Ontario, federal, provincial and First Nations alike, have a shared responsibility to preserve, protect and enhance the fisheries resource for the benefit of future generations.

Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

The framework recognizes and affirms the importance of aboriginal and treaty rights, recognizes the inherent right of aboriginal self-government, and the government-to-government relationship between Ontario and the First Nations. It establishes a set of guiding principles and elements to be addressed in any negotiations.

- Individual First Nations are not required to enter into negotiations with the province as a result of the framework, unless they wish to do so.
- The framework does not diminish or affect aboriginal or treaty rights, prevent First Nations from having any other process or agreement, or diminish the federal government's fiduciary responsibility toward the First Nations.

Allocation, Management and Compliance

The framework affirms that conservation of the resource must take precedence over all other allocations.

- Both parties agree that decisions on allocation must recognize aboriginal and treaty rights as protected by the Canadian Constitution.
- Both parties agree that treaty rights of member First Nations must be interpreted in a just, broad and liberal manner, according to their spirit and intent, as affirmed in court decisions such as *Sparrow*.
- The framework recommends the development of an intergovernmental strategy to coordinate conservation, management and compliance regimes.

Fisheries Resource Centre

Under the terms of the agreement, a Fisheries Resource Centre will be established. The centre will function as a central and independent source of information on fisheries management issues, including allocation and compliance.

- The Centre will provide a forum for participation by non-aboriginal groups and individuals on matters related to fisheries conservation and management. Such groups might include sport and commercial fishing interests, the tourism industry and conservation groups.

Economic Development

The framework provides that improved access to fisheries resources could be a component of economic development for First Nations. This development includes, but is not limited to, commercial fishing and processing, manufacturing and marketing, sport fishing and recreation, and tourism.

- Both parties agree to jointly develop economic development initiatives for member First Nations, including loan and grant programs to the First Nations.
- Both parties agree to jointly develop training programs in fisheries assessment, management and compliance, to help aboriginal persons obtain greater access to employment opportunities in these areas.
- Acquisitions of existing allocations of commercial users to implement individual agreements will be on a willing-buyer, willing-seller basis.

Elements of First Nation Agreements

The framework establishes that negotiations of individual conservation and fishing agreements with a member First Nation could address such matters as harvesting fisheries resources -- including geographical areas, quantity, time of the year, methods and techniques -- and the extent of priority allocation to member First Nations, consistent with their aboriginal and treaty rights.

Negotiation could also address such matters as who will carry out enforcement; and, where appropriate, the kind of co-operation with compliance and law enforcement agencies of other jurisdictions.

The framework for negotiating individual agreements also provides for the establishment of mechanisms for dispute resolution, intergovernmental co-operation, and the role of the Fisheries Resource Centre with respect to management and allocation issues.

Why the Framework is Needed

Following the *Sparrow* decision by the Supreme Court of Canada in 1990, Ontario introduced its Interim Enforcement Policy (IEP) which provides direction on how aboriginal and treaty rights could be exercised. The guidelines of the IEP are designed to be replaced by permanent agreements with aboriginal communities. The framework agreement with the Anishinabek Nation is a first step in this process.

The framework of guiding principles will allow the province and the member First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation to negotiate individual fishing agreements that will establish permanent and consistent rules and guidelines with respect to conservation, allocation and enforcement.

Through the shared commitment to the framework of guiding principles, including recognition of the paramount importance of conservation, Ontario and the First Nations are moving beyond the province's interim enforcement guidelines toward a process of cooperative relationships and shared management of the fisheries resource.

Discussions Leading to the Agreement

The Government of Ontario and the Anishinabek Nation carried out their discussions on a government-to-government basis consistent with the Statement of Political Relationship between the province and First Nations.

The Anishinabek Nation was represented by the Union of Ontario Indians. The province was represented by chief negotiator Lloyd Girman and an MNR team.

Interested organizations, such as the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), the Ontario Fish Producers Association (OFPA), the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters (NOTO) and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) have been kept abreast at the executive level of the discussions by MNR.

Future Steps

Work is proceeding on establishing the Fisheries Resource Centre, to enable the centre's work on conservation to begin as soon as possible. A working group, consisting of representatives from the Union of Ontario Indians, MNR, and interested non-aboriginal organizations, will begin shortly to draft terms of reference for the centre.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

Rosemary Hnatiuk
Minister's Office
TORONTO (416) 314-2208

Peter Akiwenzie
Union of Ontario Indians
NORTH BAY (705) 497-9127

Brian Blomme
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2095



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